

This Old House

Great
homeowner
GIFTS
\$13 and up
p. 22

Get your home holiday ready

**Save
\$50
\$100
\$500**
with these
DIY tricks
p. 76

**Crown
molding:**
27 inspiring
ideas
p. 82

- warm,
welcoming
entries
- cozy cottage
upgrades
- gather-round
kitchens

**SPECIAL
SECTION**

Our Top Product Picks 2010

Last-forever lightbulbs
Lightweight drywall

One-step faux finishes...and more!

DECEMBER 2010
THISOLDHOUSE.COM

\$4.99US \$5.99CAN



OK,
it's time to get a
**BIGGER
BOAT.**



3.7L | 3.0L | 4.2L | 5.0L
4 NEW ENGINES



Best-in-class towing power, 11,300 lbs.* Full steam ahead.

This is the future of trucks.

THE NEW 2011 F-150

FIND OUT MORE AT FORDVEHICLES.COM



*Properly equipped. Check local load capacity limits. 11,300 lbs. GVWR. **Available only 2011.

IF YOUR CARD HAS AN
ANNUAL FEE, GET RID OF IT.

IF IT COMES WITH A REWARD
REDEMPTION FEE, CUT IT UP.

IF IT COSTS TO ADD A CARD,
STICK IT IN A DRAWER.

AND SWITCH TO DISCOVER.®

Ranked #1 in customer loyalty.*
It pays to switch. It pays to Discover.



1-800-DISCOVER | discover.com
Discover® More® card



{ December 10 } contents

HOLIDAY READY →

idea file

25 before + after: kitchen

A rip-and-reat layout and pot-and-style touches change a cramped space into a family's just-right cooking place

33 shopping

Wall mount mailboxes

38 get this look

Craftsman style holiday entry

45 price wise

Roll back window side chairs

47 front and center

At the HGTV job site, more space, a double window and bright paint lighten up a once-forsaking entryway. Learn the why and how behind three other entry makeovers too

70 making a vintage cottage her own

An Arkansas doctor gives her the dreamlike, rustic-chic Craftsman style makeover

money-savers

22 budget redo

A copper sink and other bargain buys turn a living space powder room up to date

70 30 down-and-dirty tricks for big DIY savings

Work up a sweat and save some dough with these practical home-improvement tips

upgrades

67 best new home products 2010

We saw a ton of stuff this year. Check out our first annual Insider's list of stand-out goods

68 all about

Crown molding



on the cover



35, 42, 57, 45, 70 Get your home holiday-ready
32 Great homeowner gifts
30 Our top product picks 2010
42 Crown molding
70 Save with these DIY tricks

Home Photography: 2010 \$12.99
Subscription: 2010 \$12.99



Dive into our bag of DIY tricks and you'll come out with 30 money-saving, home-improving ideas.



70
DIY TRICKS



51
HOME CENTER PROJECT



15
HOME SOLUTIONS



41
SALVAGE STYLE

home solutions

- 15 Build a Christmas tree base: 30 uses for corded stoves, cheer up old-chairs by painting their legs, stop-four holiday mishaps from happening, new low-priced stocking stuffers, and more

how-to projects

- 36 paint ideas Use paper templates to hand-paint Moroccan star designs on your walls
- 41 salvage style Turn a vintage iron window guard into a storage-expanding wall-mount pot rack
- 51 home center project Freshen porches and terrace patios with a table-top fit for a holiday feast. TCM general contractor Tom Siles shows you how

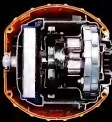
ask this old house

- 59 Q + A Track down new leads for old-door hardware, fix a leak caused by a tilted tub, use shims to help make like, spruce brownout, replace a cracked Corbin kitchen sink, and more
- 94 step-by-step Install a wood floor medallion
- 96 Norm's tricks of the trade Find out what's causing your loose interior joints
- 98 TCM tool test 12-volt lithium-ion drill/drivers

in every issue

- 8 thisoldhouse.com
- 9 reader mail
- 11 letter from This Old House
- 12 checklist Easy ways to improve your home right now
- 100 directory
- 110 save this old house

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HOME CENTER PROJECT; PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



Conventional vacuums have wheels that don't steer properly.

The Dyson vacuum pivots on a ball. The motor is inside the ball, lowering the center of gravity and making steering even easier.



dyson ball

Turns on a dime. No loss of suction.

www.dyson.com

Anyplace air or moisture gets in,
GREAT STUFF
keeps it out.



designcraftllc.com
To see video of GREAT STUFF™
in Gnu at Falls on your
smartphone, just snap this tag.

[Don't have a tag ready?
Tap the free at gnu.com code]



Adults: 18+
Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

House
MAINTENANCE

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

Experienced: 18+ experienced professionals

ADULTS

SHE HAS 4,000 COSTUMES AND ONE STUBBORN
FOUNDATION CRACK. THIS CALLS FOR GREAT STUFF.™
And maybe a pirate get-up. Arrr.



When you live in a town called Great Falls it's all about fresh air and picturesque waterfalls. But if you have air and moisture coming through foundation cracks, there's nothing quite as great about it. So we come to town with a truckload of durable and water-tight GREAT STUFF™ Gaps & Cracks Insulating Foam Sealant. Now whether or not you're staying a relaxed collection of lake moustaches, your basement or crawlspace can be sealed up tight.

See us in Great Falls at designcraftllc.com/GreatFalls

471 Lakeside at The First Capital Center • 2nd Floor • South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Event and information provided by designcraftllc.com • 2014





invites you to enter for your chance
to win one of these

BEST NEW PRODUCTS



GRAND PRIZE:
Samsung
4-Door
French Door
Refrigerator*
Only 12,999



TO ENTER, VISIT:

THISOLYMPIADCONTESTS.COM/TEST

DE PESTICIDE EFFICIENCY Furthermore, they can improve pest detection, as happens, for example, with *Phytomyza*, a species of fly that feeds on the eggs of the pest. In addition, the use of repellents can be useful to prevent the pest from feeding on the crop. For example, the repellent *Pyrethrum* can be used to prevent the pest from feeding on the crop. In addition, the repellent *Pyrethrum* can be used to prevent the pest from feeding on the crop. In addition, the repellent *Pyrethrum* can be used to prevent the pest from feeding on the crop.

thisoldhouse.com

gingerbread house contest

**your chance to win
a \$500 gift card**



For the contest rules—and to see dozens of gingerbread houses—go to thisoldhouse.com/gingerbread



facebook.com/thisoldhouse  [@thisoldhouse](https://twitter.com/thisoldhouse)



Oriental bitterroot

In your October Home Solutions column you had a short battle-up about annual herbaceous. This is the first point I have seen in any media source informing the public about this invasive vine. It is the devil's version of kudzu. It strangles young saplings, and so ecotony systems may lose forest trees, killing them. I have been fighting it for several years. I've found annual vines with a diameter of 1/2 inches or more will have had to use a saw to cut them. I've pulled out one system of 10 feet, and there was still more above it broke. It is very resistant to herbicides. The

needs to be more awareness about this plant. Thanks for the article.

ALBERT CHIN
NORTH CHILMARK, MASS.

Wind-felling starts slow

In October's Ask This Old House, someone asked about repairing a storm door damaged by a strong wind. Given the way the wind hit our front entry, we'd repaired and replaced a few storm doors over the years. Finally we got the idea to put the hinges on the opposite side of the door so that the wind would push it shut instead of snapping it back and breaking it. It has been

that way for at least 20 years now, and we've not had a problem with the sound since.

—MUSICBOX.MANCHESTER.COM

Detailed description of the mold fragment

Re-Decorate's Weekend Remodel project on making a cold frame, there is an easier and cheaper method. When some neighbors were up grading their windows, I got an old double-hung in frame for nothing. I cut down a door frame—from a picture door someone didn't want—to fit under the frame of the window. In use, just open the window to ventilate and control the inside temp. No need for hinges, a handle, or a track to hold up the window.

—ALDEN WART CHILDSVILLE, N.C.

Current Issue

✦ The price given for the bookcase on page 68 of the October issue was incorrect. It is actually \$320 as shown. go.illustration.com.

4 The humidifier listed as "temporary" in the chart on page 24 of the October issue was not the correct model. It should be Honeywell HCM-350, \$25, based on cost.



Fluted mirror frame

ALICE HOFMANN, ROCKVILLE, MD

My husband likes a large unshowered well man or left over from a bathroom remodel. We had talked about building a freestanding for it for months, but when I saw your Home Center Project in the September 2000 issue, I knew that I could finally convince him to do it. After a fair amount of effort, the shower looks great, hanging in our dining room. Thanks!



How to reach us

Time out! This 24-hour magazine,
125 West 30th Street
New York, NY 10013
Or e-mail TSH, letters@timeinc.com.
+ Include your full name, address and
phone number. Published letters are edited
for clarity and length.

Made to last

Virginia Mill Works flooring combines the best of the old and the best of the new. The cherished, time-honored elegance of handcrafted is joined with the benefits of modern engineering and prefabricating to create a floor without peer. And while a home's character is developed over a period of years and even decades, Virginia Mill Works flooring has character right from the start.

Virginia Mill Works Windsor Oak Handcrafted Flooring is available at Lumber Liquidators



Ho, ho...uh-oh!

"Could you just give me a quick hand getting the decorations down from the tree before you go?" That was my mother, when my wife and I were visiting, lying right to my face. "Sure," my wife said, volunteering me before I could say otherwise.

I should explain: You see, the devout my mother, an otherwise humorless woman, was positioning right there—it was all about the "quick hand." There is nothing quick about my mother's Christmas decorating. It takes her many days, hundreds of man-hours all totaled up. The sheer volume of decorations makes it impossible for the process to be otherwise.

Nonetheless I went up the stairs, through the door, and into the attic crawl space. But the wood slat, gutter milk can and a box with a little wood saw cost and knee pains I wore when I was 2.

On Day 1, I got the tree stand. Trigs 2 and 3 were for the lights. Trigs 4 and 5 were for boxes of ornaments. Trigs 6 was for a box of Santas that she's collected. Trigs 7 was also for a box of Santas. Trigs 8, 9, 10, and 11 were for our main box of Santas plus three Santas that were too big to fit in a box.

Sitting at the dining room table, surrounded by them, I said to my wife, "She has more Santas than..."

"Than what?" she asked. "Than you have park in our storage space? Excessive kente, most you got?" I think she was implying that I had my own bag of stuff—or that I was an excessive little.

I'm not sure. "Look at all this," I said, gesturing around me. "Look at it! You can't even see me, there are so many Santa Clauses here." And just then my mother, clearly having heard every word I'd said, walked in.

"I can see you," my mother said, "but you're right. It's time to thin the herd." I looked at her, the satisfying smile of a long-fought victory starting to spread across my face, and then... "I'm going to get rid of the big one right in the middle. Yeah, I definitely don't need that one anymore."

"Come on sweetie," my wife said. "You heard your mother."

San Chavone
SCOTT OMBELIANI, EDITOR
www.thisoldhouse.com

P.S. Perhaps, dear reader, you're wondering what this has to do with This Old House. Well, it's meant to be a cautionary tale—not about being bullied from your mother's house, which you may or may not desire—but about collecting. Hoard too much and you'll have no room for anything from my favorite new TCH feature: Our first annual Best New Home Products list. I can't do an endless justice here, just turn to page 57 to check it out. Oh, and before I forget: Happy Holidays to you and yours. May they bring you as much joy as I brought Santas from my mother's attic.

letter {from This Old House}



THREE THINGS I LEARNED FROM THIS ISSUE

1. How a candle stub and some foil can help you get your chow bird. (p. 38)
2. How cut-up paper and some go-it-yourself can make you feel like you just woke up in Cambodia. (p. 36)
3. How a vintage window guard can make your pals and guests feel safe. (p. 42)

checklist { December 19 }

EASY WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Give your fire extinguisher a safety check

Start by making sure the pressure gauge's pointer is in the green zone. If it isn't, call your local fire station to find out where to take the apparatus represented and refilled with its extinguishing agent. If the instruction label is illegible, contact the manufacturer for a replacement. See cracks, dents, or rust on the shaft? Time to buy a replacement.



What's on your checklist?

"Taking up roof shingles to break snow off the edge of my house and gutters is helping keep ice dams from forming."

—John H. Haggerty, Editor at Large

Email us your ideas at checklist@thefixhouse.com

Secure the homestead

Before you visit family for the holidays, follow these steps to ensure your house doesn't fall prey to burglars.

Put your lamps on timers. Set them to switch the lights on a few hours on the evening to give the impression that someone is at home.

- > Install exterior lights with motion sensors near ground-floor entries.
- > Trim trees and other climbable vegetation back at least 3 feet from windows.
- > Arrange for a neighbor to collect your mail and plow the driveway if it snows.



TOH TIP

Blow the dust from thermostats

Left unchecked, dust can accrue inside thermostats, causing them to misread the room's temperature—a cool saving, and potentially costly, error. To clean yours, cut the power, remove its cover, and gently blow away dust, then nudge out any dirt with acetone swab.

Tighten exterior stair railings

A handrail won't help you scale slippery steps if it wobbles when you grab it. To secure a wood railing, apply construction adhesive to the top of the posts and reinforce with screws. For wrought-iron, tighten all the fasteners, replacing cracked parts with stainless steel. If the rail has come loose from a masonry wall, be sure the anchor is set in footing or solid block, not mortar, if necessary, reset it with new concrete.

Prep your snow-blower for winter

Refill it with fresh gasoline?

Sure, but here are other steps you should take before a blizzard hits:

1. If the spark plug looks worn, replace it, setting the spark plug's gap based on the manufacturer's specifications.
2. Drain away old oil, following the manufacturer's guidelines, and fill with a fresh supply.
3. Check the scraper bar for wear. If it looks thin, replace it.
4. Examine the belt for cracks and replace as needed.



WE TOLD THE ENGINEERS TO MAKE IT STRONGER.

THEY CAME BACK WITH STRONGER STAINABLE HEAT-RESISTANT AND WATERPROOF.

SHOWOFFS.



New Wood Glue MAX from Elmer's. Our most advanced formula yet, it's the only woodworking adhesive on the market that's both waterproof and stainable.

For interior projects, check out the new, stronger formula of Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Glue.



- WATERPROOF & STAINABLE
- Bonds Stronger than Wood
- Resists Heat, Mold & Mildew
- Sandable & Paintable
- Easy Winter Cleanup

Visit elmers.com/td for helpful woodworking tips and videos.

Nature has something to tell you.



Thanks. The more efficient a system, the less fuel it uses and the better it is for the environment. ENERGY STAR®-qualified York Affinity™ Furnaces have an off-the-chart efficiency rating up to 98%. As a matter of fact, the York Affinity Modulating Furnace is the most efficient gas-fired residential furnace on the market today. Rather than simply switching on or off, it works like a dimmer switch—evenly replacing the amount of heat leaving the house and automatically adjusting itself to maintain the desired temperature setting. Quiet, eco-friendly Affinity systems save energy, money, and the planet. Now that feels nice. Call your York Dealer at 800.910.YORK to learn more. Visit us online at yorkhvac.com/comfort.



*Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings up to 98% on select models and as low as 92.5% on all models with variable speed motors

The eco-friendly York Affinity Series Furnaces.



home solutions

Edited by Jessica DeDe & Peter

inside

10 USES

PREVENT HOLIDAY DISASTERS

GIFT GUIDE

MORE



4 SMART IDEA

House-parts trimmings

While cutting high evergreens might be the norm today, up until the late 19th century most Christmas trees fit snugly on a table. But the fact that they were small doesn't mean they couldn't make a big statement. Just check out our festive take, shown here. Set inside a box clad with tin ceiling tiles, and adorned with keyhole hardware and dollhouse doors and windows, this tiny prop belongs to the historic house in which it resides. To create your own version, simply pick out some architectural elements of your home you'd like to highlight. Then turn the page for pointers on building the tree box and assembling the ornaments. *Continued* ➔



▶ SMART IDEA CONTINUES



How-to: Build the tree box

1. Construct the legs. Glue and nail a 2x4 strip flush with the long edge of a 2x2 strip to form an L-shaped leg that is more than tall enough to accommodate your tree's pot. Repeat three times.

2. Build the body. Cut four panels from 1/2-inch plywood making two of them 16 inches narrower than the other two. All four should be as tall as the legs you just made. Glue and nail the panels so that they sit inside the legs, as shown. Make sure the narrow panels face

each other and the wide panels face each other. You will now have a box that is open at both ends.

3. Support the bottom of the box. Glue and nail scrap plywood to the bottom of the box, then tack one corner support at the base height. To create the bottom panel, cut a piece of 1/2-inch plywood that's slightly smaller than the box's interior dimensions. Slide the panel down into the box, and nail it to your supports. Glue and nail it down for extra support.

4. Trim the bottom of the panels. Grub a bottom rail by cutting a 1/2-inch strip of 2x4 between the box's legs. Nail and repeat on all sides.

5. Insert the top. Cut a 2x4 strip to fit snugly inside your box frame. (We used a standard 2-by-4, but we from American Forests' GreenGuard wood into four equal squares.) Apply vinyl adhesive caulk to the back of

the 2x4, and glue the frame and seal with the caulk.

6. Cap and paint. Turn the box's light-side up. Lay the top inside edges with 1x4 strips. Cap the box by gluing and nailing four 2x4s along with the inside corners. If the supports you just made. Sand the wood, then finish by painting and staining it with a color of your choice.

—J.C.

▶ more step-by-step

Find more photos showing how to make this tree box at houzz.com/ideas



How-to: Gather the ornaments

Tiny replicas of architectural details are a clever alternative to traditional baubles. Search flea markets, hardware stores, or online auction sites for skeleton keys and keyholes, which can cost as little as \$1 each. Or buy new reproductions—ours come from houseofantiquehardware.com (from \$2 each), and string them on colorful ribbon.

Look in your local craft store or on a website such as houseworksltd.com for wood dollhouse doors and windows that you can paint. Whatever your home's architectural style, you'll likely find small-scale pieces that will fit right in. —J.C.

Go on, keep your hands full.



pivoting headlight

4 light modes

Our full line of powerful headlights—including our versatile, energy-efficient 6 LED headlight—are ready for anything. So keep hunting. Keep Going now that's positivenergy


energizerlights.com


Candle stubs

Even after you've burned them down quite a bit, candles still come in handy around the house. Here are a few ways to see them in a new light.

1 Waterproof a label.

Lightly rub the end of a pale-colored candle stub over a package's mailing label to prevent moisture from ruining the ink bleed.

2 Fix a shoelace.

Melt a stub into a piece of felt, then immediately dip the end of a frayed lace into the wax. Hold a few seconds, then mold the wax into a point that can be pulled through lace holes.



3 Unstick drawers.

Lubricate the runners of a drawer with a candle to help it open and close with ease. (This trick also works on window and sliding-door tracks.)



4 Ignite kindling.

Detach a melting candle stub loosely over a pinecone or small branch and let dry. Toss into a fireplace or woodstove as a fire starter.

5 Make a smooth cut.

Rub wax along the sides of a new blade to help it slice cleanly through lumber.

6 Distress furniture.

Before storing a wood piece lightly rub random sections with white or beige stub. The stain won't come off where

there's wax, giving the wood a weathered look.

7 Seal envelopes.

After addressing holiday cards, dip wax over the top of the envelope flap to keep it sealed—and add a bit of historical charm.

8 Illuminate a party.

Melt the bottoms of a



candle stub and stick it securely inside a glass jar. Light them up; the flickering flames are wrapped around the jar's mouth to cast a glow.

9 Deter bugs.

Make mosquitos repelled by melting unscented stubs in a double boiler, adding citronella oil, and pouring into a half-gallon jar.

10 Prevent snow and ice buildup.

Coat the edge of a shovel or scraper with wax so that snow and ice will slide right off.

—ANNEKATHTHOMPSON

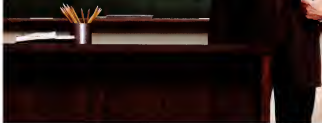
more 10 uses.

Find clever ideas for your home at thisishome.com/10uses



"Most accidents occur close to home. Isn't that where your agent should be?"

— Prof. Nathaniel Burke



Unlike many insurance companies, Farmers Insurance prides itself on providing our customers with personal support from agents living near you. The University of Farmers—an esteemed insurance education institution—takes the best agents from your area and trains them to be even better. When they're ready, we send them back to your community to start serving you. For more information on our venerable tradition, head to universityoffarmers.com.



FARMERS

We Are Insurance. We Are Farmers.

Auto | Home | Life | Business

► 2017年6月

Update old chairs with paint

Transform even an ordinary dinner into a festive affair by perking up the legs of your dining chairs with a coat of cheerful color. Start by going over the legs with medium-grit sandpaper until they're as smooth as possible. Wipe away any dust with a tack cloth, then use a small brush to apply a coat of latex primer. Follow with two coats of latex paint in your desired hue; let dry completely between applications. If the legs feature detailed woodwork, avoid drips by painting with a side-to-side motion. —LCE



+ 5.00% = 54.05%

Avoid holiday horrors

Big gatherings are a sign of the season, but with so many people in your home at once, winter relationships can get into chaos. Here's how to save your house from chaos and stay on top of the winter.

1. Speaking

Prevent fire:
An outlet is total
amperage of volts

2_Fancy
candles

Those tapers look great glowing on your table—until someone knocks them onto the floor. Unfortunately, **Resistent** is **Never** lit: a candle decal on a flammable material. Before lighting, here

3. Smoking

Eye-bye birdie
Smile at it as passing
out of the oven while
you're cooking.
Prevent it. Clean the
oven thoroughly at
least a day before the
meal. With a broiling
rack installed, broil 2
to 3 inches from the
flame and place a
sheet on inside of the

4. Leaky trait

Prevent it: Regularly flush a natural engine down the drain to keep it clear. Avert an overflow by closing the water valve and using a plunger at the first sign of a slow drain.

reader tip

"Some careless tool chargers keep charging even after they're done, shortening the battery's life. To prevent this, plug the charger into a timer sold for indoor lights and set the switch for how long you want your battery to charge."



reader tip www.fox.com

SHARE YOUR TIPS
Post them at thisishouse.com/tips

INTRODUCING
YOUR MAIN
SQUEEZ

T50 R.E.D.
PROFESSIONAL MANUAL STAPLE
GUN and T-BRAD NAIL GUN

Check out these other
great R.E.D.™ Tests



Population



Active Posture's 6 E.D. (Ergonomic, Durable) tools are built with one thing in mind: Building tools that work when you work, no matter the time of day or the condition of the job.

know builds them right as you can build them right

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2.1. FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULE
Best sleep, best night or virtually any schedule | 2.2. IN-LINE POWER SETTING
Drive into hard and soft surfaces |
| 2.3. UP TO 40% MORE POWER*
More versatility on the job | 2.4. DRAIN LINES MAINTENANCE
Get work done faster |
| 2.5. NEW GREEN TO GREEN™
Less failure on the job site | 2.6. RIDE HIGH, GOIN'
The wide impact of labor to live a T ² best |

www.trivium-aid.com/ind

^aAs compared to select competitive models, "No compound is derived" (50%) implies just 30% Power 7.100 add would fit through Pipeline.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, 1997, 77, 10, 11.



+ Gift guide

Stocking stuffers from \$13

Proving that good things come in small packages, these five clever, affordable gifts will make up for the heavy

1. **Christmas glass cutter** Slice off ceramic stocking dolls with the High Gloss 3000. \$25, spoonbarn.com

2. **Wood shaving ornaments** Flare's sumptuous decorations will make you think the scraps on your worktop floor. \$20 for eight ornaments. (877) 967-8811

3. **Cheer-kissers book** Read out loud to get The Circle book into the ear on the head. About \$20 loudkissinger.com

4. **Bendwood flashlight** The LED Torch looks like a log and is so hidden in a drawer. \$40, www.kidde.com

5. **Gingerbread house pins** 8 add-homed house on the block and this sprouts from The Gingerbread Architect (Clarkson Potter) \$15, amazon.com

6. **To-do-listening Multitasking** All At Once. Plan your day and do it all together simultaneously. \$28, theplan.com

7. **Beer-and bottle opener** This magnetic kitchen essential opens cold drinks in style. \$20, amazon.com

8. **Phone key chain** With its pebble handle, you never have to put away your keys. \$13, giraffetools.com

9. **Lever-handle nutcracker** Trainers allow the adjustable lever action for shelling cashews and the like. \$13, northbrook.com

—DANIELLE BLUMGOLD



PHOTO: LARRY SCHWARTZ

Safety Just Got Smarter

Two Kinds of Protection. One Intelligent Alarm.

Detects real fires faster while avoiding nuisance alarms!

Kidde's Intelligent Alarm offers smoke and carbon monoxide protection all in one unit.

A voice warning tells you the type of hazard present in your home, and even when it's time to replace the battery. All this, while greatly reducing the chance of nuisance alarms.

Install Kidde's Intelligent Alarm. It's a smart move.

Visit www.kidde.com



Trust your home to Morton.



Enjoy Soft Water Savings Today!

Morton® System Saver® II Pellets help protect your family and home from costly hard water issues. With its slow release action, our patented System Saver® II formula helps your water softener work at peak performance and prolongs the life of your appliances and pipes. Your family will also enjoy the benefits of cleaner laundry, sparkling dishes, and softer skin and hair.

Morton Helps Your Home Work Better™



before+after:
kitchen

Practicality meets period style

With four young kids in the family, this couple's 1920s Tudor Revival needed a handsome, hardworking cook space. By JULIA COOPER • Photographed by NATALIE KOTZMAN



BEFORE A previous redo left behind ugly tile floors and laminate countertops. Now the space has a period look that suits the Tudor-style house here. Tracy Wysocky with Brett & Jeff Lay, 4, two of her four kids. Painted: Schumacher Electric

The kitchen can play a pivotal role in the "pass or improve" debate. It certainly did for Tracy and Michael Wysocky of Oak Park, Illinois. While they loved the architecture of their 1920s Tudor Revival—think blackened white wooden beams, leaded-glass windows, paneled oak doors—just five years after moving in, they were considering selling. With four young kids in the mix, navigating the room's dysfunctional layout was making daily living a chore. "There was minimal counter space, the fridge door blocked the entryway, and worse, an unlabeled pantry closet made the space uncomfortable as winter. Ultimately the couple turned to kitchen designer Rachel's Zavodoff to reimagine the space. She found that by cutting back a wall leading to the back storess and removing the pantry, the couple gain 6 square feet for a new layout that included a center island and a more open connection to the dining area. To create a period style in sync with the house, she used on-trend subway tile with charcoal paint, onyx-glass schoolhouse lights, a farm sink, and dark cabinetry. Now traffic flows more easily, there's better counter and storage space, and life is good. Says Tracy, "I never knew I could like a kitchen this much!"

Before + after: kitchen

- Black X-front cabinets with upper glass doors add to the home's classic feel, while marble tops and stainless-steel appliances double as a bar.
- Chalkboard fridge panels hide fingerprints and show off modern. The same wall holds the microwave, cooktop, and small appliances. Refrigerator GT.



before

The bridge and range island the chef in the dining room, separating it from Prep and storage spaces were mixed.



after

Answering the pantry closet and cutting back the wall opened it showed for an island and rearranging the appliances.

3 Created a new pantry with floor-to-ceiling cabinets. The double counter used for 3 acts as a bar and doubles as a bar when the owners entertain.

2 Moved the bridge to where the range had been, and it now just steps from dining.

1 Removed the pantry closet to create more room for the range and hood.



4 Added an island to gain more prep space as well as a family gathering spot.

5 Cut back the wall opposite island pantry for easier connection with the eating area.



whyhondacares



VANQUILITY

Back in the serene glow of the all-new Honda Odyssey. With its all-new interior, people and things live in peaceful harmony. A third row folds down with a simple, effortless touch. Available Bluetooth® centers your space on the road ahead while a perfectly balanced 28 mpg* V-6 takes you on a journey of pure van bliss. Replacing the all-new Acura Odyssey. **Life is no van before.**

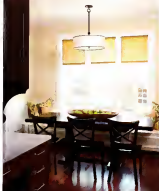
ODYSSEY

MSRP \$31,000. The Honda Odyssey features standard Bluetooth® for cell phone use and is also available with Honda Bluetooth® for music playback. *EPA 28 mpg city/24 mpg highway/22 mpg combined. Actual mileage may vary. Always wear your seat belt. ©2010 Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

before + after: kitchen

the key details

▲ A built-in bench in the eating area helps streamline the space and adds much-needed interest.



▲ Pale colors—white trim and beige walls—make the space feel bright and light. Pale hardwood and oak floor blend with these in the rest of the house. *Rebecca Carr, Lighting*

▼ **vintage details**
See how other homeowners have added detail to their homes with the difference *Juste Vintage*



▲ A tile border over all three islands ties the design together and adds a protective record along the range wall.



homeowner tip
TODD WISNOLSKY, CHICAGO, ILL.

Don't hesitate about an island because you think it will clutter the room. It's great for bringing the family together."



▲ Library lamps provide over 100 side task lighting and are the perfect solution for a room that hangs between. *Good Lighting*

▲ A shower of white granite to the left of the range gives the room a clean, modern look. *Rebecca Carr, Carr's Kitchen & Bath*

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS THREE FLASHLIGHTS IN ONE



ALL THREE OF YOUR LIGHTS COME AT TOGETHER TO GIVE YOU THE PERFECT LIGHT FOR ANY SITUATION



IT'S NOT JUST A FLASHLIGHT, IT'S A GUN OF THE FUTURE THAT SHINES ON YOUR FUTURE



YOUR FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE FUTURE. IT'S NOT JUST A FLASHLIGHT, IT'S A GUN OF THE FUTURE THAT SHINES ON YOUR FUTURE



STANLEY® 3-in-1 TRIPOD FLASHLIGHT

Quite possibly the most innovative flashlight ever. The 3-in-1 Tripod flashlight can break down into three smaller flashlights or combine together to generate one powerful 100-lumen beam of light. Articulating heads can swivel 120 degrees for intended versatility and convenient handle-free operation. It's the perfect holiday gift.

STANLEY

STANLEY TOOLS

© 2010 Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

ALL NEW SEASON. ALL NEW PROJECTS.



Installing Recessed Lights



Leaving a Bluestone Patio



Repairing a Hardwood Floor



Painting a Metal Bulkhead



Installing Radiant Heat



Ask
This Old
House

Tune in to Ask This Old House during December for expert help with these projects and every more. For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/yourhouse

Presented by **ABC** in association with **Home**

SPONSORED BY
GMC
GM AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Home

STANLEY

DK

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF HOME BUILDERS

A transformed half bath for just \$172

Changing the fixtures and finishes gives a tired powder room a whole new look by NATALIE SCHROEDER



It was take an extra bit of creativity—and energy—to keep the last project in a whole-house remodel from looking like an afterthought. With little cash left by the time they got to the powder room of their 1941 cabin, Mark and Mary Leidesdorfer of Portland, Washington, knew they'd be working with what was there. They replaced things that were tragically dried—the green laminate counter, the gold knobs—and updated the painting with paint. They scored discount tiles for the floor, such as a \$30 copper sink, and slightly damaged goods, like a \$4 sheet of beadboard for the ceiling. Mark even replaced the turquoise and green paint painting to match the sink wall and the sides of the vanity. Says Mary, "It's been a long journey for such a tiny bath, but it's now one of our favorite spaces."



Before

before The gold fittings, laminate counter, and paint painting had a 1950s feel. **after** Fresh green paint, a copper sink, bathroom-style sconces, and a wood vanity top warm up the room.

the project tally:

Stripped the wallpaper behind the vanity and removed its tan bulk top	\$0
Installed a stained and polyurethane pine counter, coated knobs, and a copper sink	\$40
Added an all rubber floor, vanity tops, and new pulls	\$46
Painted a copper sink floor at a discount sale	\$30
Hung discounted exterior sconces in vanity lighting	\$26
Turned existing pine shelves into hanging and, grout painting for the sink wall	\$0
Used a 4-by-8 sheet of 1/2" beadboard for the ceiling	\$4
Replaced the cabinets and walls with a gallon of green paint	\$24

total

\$172

shopPBS.org/Gifts

Our gift to you!
FREE SHIPPING!



Order online at www.shopPB5.org or call 1-800-531-4727.

Free shipping offer ends December 18, 2010.

Your purchase helps support PBS and the programs you love. Thank you!

© 2004 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* 93: 103–112, 2004. DOI 10.1002/jcb.20044
This article published online in Wiley InterScience, September 14, 2004.

shopping

Wall-mount mailboxes

Whether aged copper or graphic steel, these letter holders will add vintage charm and a boost of curb appeal to any home. **by DANIELLE BLUNKELL • Photographs by TED MORRISON**

A familiar sight today, and been since almost 10 years ago, are the farmers with their hand-drawn carts, loaded with sacks of grain, heading for the markets in various towns along the road. The country was once a major grain export under the 1980s, but then some war broke out, and the transportation of food commodities was blocked. In later years, transportation facilities, with aircraft and boats, are again being established. The road and the weathering mountain landscape may have faded, but the country's economic and agricultural development has laid foundations, called design, draft, and construction, that will be the basis for rebuilding a modern country one day, growing such good products as rice, oil, and the fruit of the land.

The Old Man, then, at 23, is a good fit with his old-fashioned style of carrying his own crops.

arts and crafts style

ABOVE CRAFTSMAN
Blade of polished gold brass
(Size: D7W x 44D x 8 1/2H)
Try it: On a humpless or even low stage or ledge, where its
ventral spines and C.R. Middlefeather-inspired angles can play off
each other elegantly and a low profile. \$332 | bellacasa.com



Model of -Salicylbenzylidene with a protected phenol
Size: 3042W x 5410 x 1817H

Try it. If you like to change things up on a regular basis, Try of the Golden Hour is for you. And you can swing to another artwork, panel or background color for an instant update.

520i.mallin@change.com

Made of Powder-coated galvanized steel.
Size: 36" W x 44" D x 34" H.
Try It Anywhere Its simple shape and hot
shot of color will be welcome. Perfect
for use like the one depicted here, or as
an outdoor table or bench. It's the only
outdoor furniture you'll need to see.



vertical colonial

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Made of powder-coated aluminum. Size: 12"W x 6"D x 17"H. Try it: Give a Second Empire or Queen Anne home. The burgundy hue will mesh well with historically accurate paint colors, and the scrolled backplate will complement decorative hardware. \$135. signhardware.com



embossed emblem

ARCHITECTURAL MAIL BOXES

Made of stainless steel with antiqued brass plating. Size: 16"W x 10"D x 13"H. Try it: For a dose of classic charm in a 20th-century home, where the clean lines, raised metal, and hand-painted finish will gracefully stand out. \$274. knoxdepot.com



Exclusive 10% discount
20% off
Delivery of
this mailbox
contingent

hand hammered

WARRIORCRAFTSMAN

Made of copper with an oxidized embossed finish. Size: 9 1/2"W x 4"D x 17"H. Try it: On a craftsman-style or Craftsman-Influenced home, where the handmade paper-wrapped finish, hand-hammered finish, and dimensionalizing will look at home. \$432. warriorcraftsmanshop.com



weathercharm

WEATHERCHARM

Made of copper with a patinated finish. Size: 16"W x 4 1/2"D x 17 1/2"H. Try it: If you're looking for a mailbox that's only got better with age. The hand-hammered metal will darken over time to a rich weathered hue. \$235. weathercharm.com



colonial style

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of powder-coated aluminum. Size: 12 1/2"W x 6 1/2"D x 18"H. Try it: On a Colonial Revival or New England home, where the elegant accents, subtle engravings, and cast-iron look of this leading brand will complement the architecture. \$83. americanmail.com



rusted iron

DAVID MANUFACTURING INC.

Made of aluminum with sublimation. Size: 14 1/2"W x 7 1/2"D x 14 1/2"H. Try it: If you're a frequent traveler. This generously sized box, with its handsome backplate and locking insert, can hold a week's worth of mail without you leaving. \$247. davidmfg.com



artistic luxury

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of aluminum with a brass top. Size: 12 1/2"W x 5 1/2"D x 21"H. Try it: If you're looking for a box that makes a statement. With a 21st-century finish, a brass accents door that opens for quick retrieval of deliveries and a solid lock, delivery. \$80. americanmail.com



deco detailing

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of antiqued polished brass. Size: 10 1/2"W x 4 1/2"D x 14 1/2"H. Try it: To add vintage character to a pre-World War II home. Stacked up from its original use, this reproduction of a popular style from the 1920s and '30s features may sales available for a larger vertical design. \$275. americanmail.com



pony express

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of stainless steel with a weathered finish. Size: 12 1/2"W x 5 1/2"D x 14 1/2"H. Try it: If you're an old-fashioned horse lover who plans to deliver. The decorative sliding door lets you see those other where the day's mail has been dropped off. \$80. americanmail.com



attached statement

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of powder-coated aluminum. Size: 12 1/2"W x 4 1/2"D x 13 1/2"H. Try it: On a mid-century home. The custom hand-painted tree with an attached branch is the cheery difference-maker. \$275. americanmail.com



personalized plaque

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of powder-coated aluminum. Size: 12 1/2"W x 4 1/2"D x 13 1/2"H. Try it: If you want a box to match the year house number. The dark bronze finish and clear lines will work with virtually any style. \$254. americanmail.com



simple and savvy

AMERICAN MAIL

Made of aluminum with custom-styled finish. Size: 14 1/2"W x 4 1/2"D x 13 1/2"H. Try it: Where the front door has a taste of brushed steel, solid, or chrome hardware. \$90. americanmail.com

extra, extra

Get a good report and the works for 25 minutes or less at thissoftware.com/25min

Create a curvy Moroccan-star design

The secret to making this hand-painted pattern? Two templates you cut out of paper

By DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photographs by DEBORAH WEISMAN/STUDIO BLYTH



The metallic finish of the Moroccan stars subtly contrasts with the eggshell finish of the wall paint.

Colors: About 3/4 lb. for a 10-foot-long wall.
Painted two days.
Dried with the electric fan on you, minus painting the curves in where a poster board fit.



When it comes to small tools with great impact, few painting accessories can compete with a template. To make one, simply draw a shape on heavy-coated paper or flexible cardboard, cut it out, place it on the wall, and outline it in chalk, as if drawing around a cookie cutter. Repeat. Once you've outlined your whole design, put the template away and paint (brushed) right over the chalk. Here, a tailored bedroom in minimalist shades of brown, bronze, and ivory got a welcome infusion of color and pattern with the help of two templates, three cans of paint, and a small brush. Atlanta-based decorative painter Brian Carter loosely based the design for this accent wall on a Moroccan tile, then added a twist. "Blowing up the pattern keeps it from being busy," Carter says, while the wavy, diamond-shaped stars it creates and the way it's interrupted by the ceiling and crown keep it from appearing too rigid. Bronze dots, dabbed on with the same brush, add a graphic touch to the pale blue-and-cream scheme. For the how-to, read on.

HOW IT'S DONE

1. Once your base color—here, it's Benjamin Moore's Polished Blue—is dry, measure the wall side to side and snap a vertical chalk line down its center. Snap more lines to the left and right at 18-inch intervals to pinpoint the corners. About 3 inches from the ceiling, mark the bottom of the top row of interrupted stars with chalk. Move down the chalk lines, marking dots at all-inch intervals. Use a pencil to connect the dots diagonally to create a grid of 18 by 28 inch elements.

2. With a pencil, sketch the 28 by 18-inch and 6 by 6-inch star patterns on paper. Fold into quarters, cut out along one side, unfold; you should have two equal-sided templates.



3. Placing the big template under the topmost dots, use chalk to outline a row of whole stars. Continue, working in vertical rows. Outline interrupted stars last, bending the template to help.



4. Center the small star within each of the large stars you just drew, and outline it in chalk. (Note: The outlines of adjacent large stars create similar shapes that don't get small stars.)



5. Using an 8-inch round artist's brush, paint the large stars right over the chalk outlines, using a color that contrasts with the wall—here, it's Benjamin Moore's leadish White. Make sure one star touches all four points. Let dry.



6. Paint the small stars over the chalk outlines. Let dry.



7. Using the same brush with an accent color—here it's Polk's Metallic Solid Bronze acrylic latex craft paint—paint dots at the intersections of the stars. Give the dots a second coat as needed.



pro advice

BRANDY COOPER
DECORATOR, FARMER ATLANTA
"Keep a damp sponge on hand to erase any errant marks in chalk or paint. You'll need it again when you're all done, to erase the chalk-line grid."

free templates
Download the two star templates at www.house.com/ideas

Craftsman-style holiday entry

The earthy tones and nature-themed motifs that define this architectural style make for a festive, welcoming porch. Here's how to duplicate the look at your home by JESSICA DODDLE-FRIDER • Photography by JONATHAN

"It's the season for leafy greenery, bountiful statistics, and specially shod ol' holly and, right? No matter what era house you call home, taking a cue from the Craftsman style's emphasis on natural materials, artisan handcraft, and simple, sturdy design offers fresh inspiration for gussying up your front door this season. The house shown here gets its holiday cheer from a wreath of fir, magnolia, and hawthorn, a red-painted bench, and several other warm-braced accessories. Many of the pieces, including the copper bucket, house numbers, and well scones, are in some part made by hand. Others, such as the embroidered pillows, reference specific designs popular in the Arts and Crafts era.

Read on for more ways to appreciate this holiday-ready entry.

leafy wreath

Leaves were a popular design element in Craftsman wreaths, and this one is a perfect way to deck your door this season with a warm-made from fresh fir, magnolia, and hawthorn. \$134 for 24 inches; theshopoftheartisan.com, half round garlands with copper leaflets, \$160; and these berries. \$160; www.etsy.com, \$17; [jessicadoddle.com](http://www.jessicadoddle.com)

national mood

Good guests will be suitably adorned with winter berries. \$28 for a 24 by 36-inch mat; [gardenofearth.com](http://www.gardenofearth.com)

Photo: Jonathan S. Miller



handed sconce

Made after a fixture from the early 1900s, this etched-copper light casts a warm glow. Thanks to hand blown amber glass. \$250; [renovation.com](http://www.renovation.com)

terra-cotta-look planter

A weatherproof take on classic earthenware, this resin planter's simple cube shape and warm finish bring in line with the style. Available in a variety of sizes. \$29; [jessicadoddle.com](http://www.jessicadoddle.com)



painted wood bench and rose-motif pillow

This outdoor seat is so affordable, it's a shame to take one design away. By Gertrude Jekyll, a famed garden designer of the Arts and Crafts era. \$299; [gardenofearth.com](http://www.gardenofearth.com). Reddish-brown weathered red finish with a rose-yellow velvet interior. \$100; www.etsy.com, \$100; [jessicadoddle.com](http://www.jessicadoddle.com)

firewood bucket

Give long pile of wood a place to stand. It's a hand-hammered copper vessel. \$380; [pleasantville.com](http://www.pleasantville.com)

copper house numbers

Added just character to your door with hand cast numbers made from 99 percent recycled metal and in a classic Craftsman typeface. \$22 each; www.etsy.com, \$22 each; [hardcore.com](http://www.hardcore.com)



NEW from **This Old House**

Iron window guards

Made to protect a house's entry points, vintage metal grilles can double as interior decor. Use one as the base for a pot rack, a headboard, and more.

By AMY R. FRASER Photography by KRISTINE LARSEN

A far cry from the prison-like bars sold at home centers today, 19th-century window guards were designed to make people feel secure, not confined.

Used primarily on sidewalk-level windows in urban areas from Charleston to Chicago, they kept intruders out while letting air and light in. Made from cast- or wrought-iron, and featuring elegant scrolls, twists, and flowers, they also enhanced the look of a home.

By the 1850s, there were dozens of foundries competing to satisfy Victorian-era America's appetite for highly ornate window guards, as well as newel posts, stair railings, fences, and gates. These foundries hired skilled pattern-makers, who followed all the latest European trends. At the time, builders and homeowners could choose from a vast assortment of window-guard models sold through mail-order catalogs.

Because of their strength and



Make
a pot
rack
from
a window
guard

Available
wherever
books are
sold

Get the Bath You've Always Wanted

What's Inside:

- Over 200 pages of bathroom makeovers, including before-and-after photos
- Layouts designed to maximize comfort and functionality
- All the right details to create the look you want
- Inspiring photo galleries of a variety of finished rooms
- Tips and advice from *This Old House* experts

15 Great Ideas That Mom, Dad, and Kids Can Build and Enjoy!

What's Inside:

- Easy step-by-step instructions and full-color photos
- Valuable building skills and safety tips
- Great pro advice from *This Old House*
- Special access to templates and step-by-step videos on thisoldhouse.com
- Bonus pages with fun ideas and helpful tips



Make a pot rack out of a vintage window guard

While some iron guards were panels anchored with window surrounds, the rest—majority—were attached directly to a house's exterior siding or framing with integrated strapping. The latter type is best for a pot rack because you can use the existing fastener drill-cuts as the strapping to secure it to your wall.

To suspend a rack from the ceiling, simply loop chains through the holes. For my wall-mount rack, I bought a simple 3-foot, full-height iron guard with evenly spaced horizontal rails from PotsandPansArchitecturalSalvage.com for \$30 (potsandpansarchitecturalsalvage.com). ▶

shop smart Unlike window guards, like the ones shown above at Dorsetville.com in New York City, many from \$300 to \$5,000. Simpler ones can be found on eBay and at house-part recycling centers for less than \$300.

enduring style, many vintage iron window guards still adorn homes and beautify city streets today.

But for those that have found their way to salvage yards as a result of a remodel or demolition, there are several other ways to use them inside and outside the house. A guard with vertical rails can be turned on its side to serve as a wall-mounted towel bar in the bathroom, one with a filigree design as an interesting grid pattern would be great as a headboard in the bedroom or as a trellis for climbing vines in the garden.

Or you could follow my example and turn a window guard into a rack for hanging pans, oven mitts, and aprons in the kitchen. Read on to learn how to boost storage in your cook space with a guard-turned-pot rack. ▶

Cost: \$60 for guard, \$2 each for hooks at eBay.com/potsandpans.com
 Tools: Saw
 Difficulty: Simple. Just have a friend help steady the rack while you secure it to place.



STEP BY STEP

1. Protect the iron surface from rust by rubbing an metal polish, such as [Brasso](http://Brasso.com) or [Wax](http://Wax.com) (\$20, Amazon.com). Then buff to a soft sheen.



2. Prep the fasteners by spraying them with black paint formulated for metal, such as [Rust-Oleum](http://Rust-Oleum.com) or [AmericasAccents](http://AmericasAccents.com) (35-50, Amazon.com), so that they'll match the iron rack.



3. Determine locations for the fasteners. Hold the rack against the wall where you plan to install it, slowly; there will be studs to anchor into. Use a level to check alignment, and mark the center of the rack's existing holes with a pencil.



4. Drill pilot holes for the fasteners and anchors that work with your wall type. For drywall, I used 1/8-inch long 16-inch lag bolts with plastic anchors. Because the lag bolts were smaller than the rack's holes, I added washers.



5. Steady the rack on the wall and use a ratchet wrench to hand it in the lag bolts. Make installation easier by screwing in a few bolts loosely in place before going back and tightening each one.



6. Arrange the S-hooks on the top and bottom rails. I used 30 hooks for my 3-foot rack. Hang your favorite pots and pans from those dark cabinet recesses and hang any on your rack where they'll be easy to grab.



Breakthrough!

VOC Compliance



Advantage Pro.



We here, the breakthrough: professional contractors, builders and remodelers have hoped for it's PRO Advantage. The industry's first complete line of construction adhesives that meet the most rigorous performance standards and the most stringent VOC regulations.

Advanced solvent technology
VOC compliant in all states
Performance without compromise[®]
Formulas safe for bareboard and tub surrounds
Best-in-category value

titebond.com/PROadvantage
800.347.4000



Bow-back Windsor side chairs

Two models share the same spirit while parting ways on style, manufacture, and price. by DEBORAH ALDWIN • Photographs by DON PEDOFF

For prices among American Revolutionaries, the Windsor remains an affordable choice for those with a mission to fit every dining room and budget. But not all are made the same way or even with the same proportions. Before choosing which Windsor deserves a place in your life, take a look at our chart's handouts at Windsor (and exposure to light) and its glazes, low-cost covers, which you may be able to pick up at the store.

Highly rated

The Windsor Chair Shop

NEW YORK CITY SIDE CHAIR

Dimensions: 12" W by 17" D by 27" H Weight: 10 pounds

+\$500

IT'S FOR YOU?

If you want a backboard, this is a good choice. It's also a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.

materials

The Windsor Chair Shop's backboard is made of solid wood. It's a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.

cost

The Windsor Chair Shop's backboard is made of solid wood. It's a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.

price
wise

Highly rated

Pottery Barn

WINDSOR SIDE CHAIR

Dimensions: 12" W by 17" D by 27" H Weight: 10 pounds

\$199+

IT'S FOR YOU?

If you want a backboard, this is a good choice. It's also a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.

materials

The Pottery Barn's backboard is made of solid wood. It's a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.

cost

The Pottery Barn's backboard is made of solid wood. It's a good choice for a backboard, and it's a good choice for a backboard.





Fill Gaps & Cracks— and Save Money

GREAT STUFF® Insulating Foam Sealants, emergency products from DOW Building Solutions, are designed to fill and insulate gaps and cracks, windows/doors, electrical wiring and other areas where unwanted penetrations occur. dowgreatstuff.com



Quiet Efficiency

Fujitsu General's Halcyon ductless mini-split heat pumps and air conditioners are easy to install, quiet and energy efficient. Fujitsu's systems could cut your utility bill by up to 25%. Heat or cool up to 8 individual zones for year-round whole-house comfort. fujitsu-general.com



The Unico System
Ductless Central Heating & Air Conditioning

Consistent Comfort

No other HVAC system looks simpler, and serves entryways better, like the Small Space High Velocity Unico System. Each Unico System is custom designed to deliver consistent comfort while blending seamlessly with your home's décor. Learn more at unicosystem.com



Insist on Armstrong

For beautiful floors that are durable enough for any design or lifestyle, insist on Armstrong. Explore a wide range of textured resilient, laminate and ceramic options, to help guide you through the selection process, locate local retailers and order samples, visit armstrong.com



LG Central Air Conditioning

Art Cool™

Customized Good Looks

LG's Art Cool™ combines artificial air conditioning and climate control for use in one solution that is contemporary and functional. It provides a three-dimensional air flow system with the look and feel of a stylish photo frame. lgvac.com



GREEN DEMOLITIONS
Responsible Demolition • Green Remodeling

Recycled Luxury Kitchens

Save thousands at Green Demolitions on kitchens recycled from luxurious estate homes. Luxury apartments and designer show rooms. Premium kitchen finish—countertops, appliances, sinks, faucets—also available at 50-90% off list price. Plus save on professional home décor and more. We have stores in Norwalk, CT, Riverside, MA, Haverhill, MA, and more. Shipping. Join Luxury Bargain Hunters Club for "Low-Bid" coupons and sneak previews. Proceeds benefit a worldwide addiction recovery outreach. To learn more, visit us at greendemolitions.com



This Old House Wants You!

Did you know you can influence what This Old House includes in our magazine? Simply go to thisoldhouse.com to register. At a special event, mention you'll help us improve our magazine and website, and you'll receive exclusive offers plus the chance to win This Old House merchandise (T-shirts, gift cards and more).

Front and center

The TOH TV project house is getting a boost from a bigger, brighter entryway. Learn why fixing up these little spaces has such a large impact.

By KATHY FANDOLFI • Photographs by ANTHONY VIGIL

"It was like entering a black hole." That's how architect Harriet Christy "Chris" Chu described what it once felt like to walk through the front door of the current *This Old House* project house in Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Indeed, the 1940 Colonial Revival had one of the most unwelcoming entryways imaginable. The recessed front door was almost invisible from the street. And anyone who managed to find it entered into a claustrophobic 3-by-3-door vestibule that led to a dimly lit hallway lined with oppressively dark rail-work. "Senseless," says Chu, "it was one of the most depressing entryways I've ever seen."

While homeowners Karen and Allison Sherman agreed that the sun could use some work, they had no idea how to make it better. "We wanted to open it up, but we didn't have much space to play with," says Allison. Luckily, Chu had just the fix: a modern, bump-out entry that would vastly improve their



Yellow



ABOVE: A photo illustration shows the Auburndale house's new front entry will look when completed, with square columns and a 16-foot-tall walkway (a pergola post removed) will connect like the detached garage. LEFT: TOH general contractor Tom Silva installs a metal board for the front door.

home's third facade, hung in extra light, and add a bit more square footage where it was really needed.

The 6-by-9-foot addition, shown in the rendering on the previous page, will include a new, wider door flanked by sidelights, as well as a double window on one side and a single window on the other. Topping it will be a small gabled roof to match the lines of the new roof that TOH's general contractor Tom Silva is building on the garage, giving the house more visual interest and the eye-pleasing symmetry it lacked. "Enlarging the front entry was an extremely practical idea," says Allman. "And it meant that our family of four could walk into our house without tripping all over each other."

Chu has worked her magic on this spot before. Over the years, she's renovated several homes with new entryways—some partly to improve a house's exterior, others to make coming indoors a more hospitable, less cumbersome experience. "People are always amazed by how much impact these little spaces have," says Chu. If you're thinking about remodeling your entryway, see the examples straight for inspiration.

Three reasons to revamp an entry

Not necessarily just a delight, overlooking a front entry is a smart investment that can enhance a home both outside and in. Here's how architect Chris Chu improved a line of Colonial Revival-style properties.

1 make room for a half bath

After a kitchen expansion designed by Chu grabbed up their first floor powder room, the owners of this 2003 home were looking for a place to put a new one. Since their house had always been a knockout from the island, they were initially leery when Chu suggested enlarging the half bath to a new entryway, which would increase storage in the exterior. Taking it one step from the house's symmetrical form and Greek Revival facade, Chu pulled off a small footprint with a larger, everything that looks like it's been there from the beginning.



[before]

2 create a better first impression

After Chu redesigned the kitchen, bathroom, and master bedroom of this 2000s house, homeowners Jenny and Bob Stalick decided the front stoop—with its rocky wrought-iron railing and unimpressive brick steps—wasn't up to snuff with the rest of the place. Like the rest of the TOH TV project, their house also had entry vestibule and screened back foyer. Chu gave the latter a handsome new look with a set of entry



[before]

3 add storage space

"A coat closet—that's all they wanted," says Chu of the couple that sent her the charming 2002 Dutch Colonial Revival. The new entry is closer to turn to be old-timey, with a picket-fence that complements the house's style. In low enough to permit views from any upstairs window, inside, a new double window helps maximize the front hall. The vestibule is ideal. The extra sunlight is a must. But they decided to skip the built-in coat closet. Chu designed a freestanding armoire and placed another window above it.



[before]



LEFT: The new entryway, though modest in size, has ideas on how to stand out from the crowd. RIGHT: The enlarged foyer has enough space for a half bath.



LEFT: A white picket fence and entryway front door is not green to the exterior. RIGHT: Cherry yellow paint and a recessed lighting help to brighten the front entry.



LEFT: The front door is original, but it was replaced in the new entry. RIGHT: Chu designed the freestanding armoire (left) to provide a place to park coats and hats.



pro advice

Chris Chu, architect, Westborough, Mass.: "If your budget won't let you add a whole new entryway, consider simply installing a new door with sidelights to brighten up the interior."



ADVERTISEMENT

INTRODUCING **RED**

RED
RELIABLE. INNOVATIVE. DURABLE.

We tested the all-new Arrow® T50 R.E.D.™ Manual Staple Gun and T Brad Nail Gun among 25 pros in our HomeTeam panel to get their first-hand feedback, and the results are in!

96% of testers rated it more powerful than other manual staplers

82% of testers rated it much better than other manual staplers they have used to perform the same function

“This staple gun was effortless to use and it had no kickback so the staple stayed where it was supposed to.”

—Anthony Trueman, Wilmette, IL



“I used the tool over the course of a full day and no cramping of the hand which sometimes occurs with other staplers.”

—Michael Hudson, Brookline, MA



“It really was easy to use and had a much smoother, even motion when stapling.”

—Greg Reed, Winston, ME



“The fact that it shoots both T50 staples and brads makes it a versatile tool for the shop and around the house.”

—Ronald Anderson, St. Taylor, MO



If you would like the chance to be chosen to test—and keep—a new product, sign up to join the HomeTeam today at www.joinhometeam.com

home center
project

Make a trestle table

Corbels and staircase parts helped us craft a handsome table with plenty of room for a holiday crowd. *by ROBERT KOTZAK/PRO • Photography by WENDELL Y. WORMER*

If you're hosting a holiday meal, a big dining table is as much a necessity as extra silverware and a seating chart that doesn't cause a family feud. But a solid wood table can be a four-figure investment, so to avoid the home from looking like a museum to help us build one that wouldn't dry up our gift budget, With the help of The Old House general contractor Tim Silva, we designed a generous trestle table that incorporates some decorative flourishes without breaking the bank. The legs are simply turned posts that were cut to size, sanded and with feet made from corbels that have curved, scalloped details, and connected by a stretch cut from a length of handrail. Book-lender steel nobles finish off the top. Legend: a weekend making it and you guarantee you'll get so many compliments on your new piece of furniture as the food you serve on it.



For complete instructions, turn the page



86-inch-long trestle table, 12 1/2-inch wide with 1 1/2-inch deep, 12-inch wide with 1 1/2-inch deep, 12-inch wide with 1 1/2-inch deep, 12-inch wide with 1 1/2-inch deep

Case 1:17-cv-01017 Document 1-1 Filed 07/26/17 Page 1 of 1

Time 3 hours plus parking
Difficulty Moderate. The route is straightforward, but moving the cumbersome peccary may require whittor.

HOW IT'S DONE

Build a trestle table

Dining tables are typically 29 to 32 inches high. Make yours lower (or higher) by cutting more (or less) off the ends of the wood posts. Find a full nut set and a assortment of parts for the table base at Homedepot.com/boxcar



4 Cut the top and flags. Use a circular saw guided by a straightedge to cut off the plywood underlayment in place. With a utility saw, cut the 2x6 cleats, 2x6 stringers, and flags. Hand-saw and sand paper to size if your utility saw isn't all the way through-like pencils, not halfway through them. Flip them over and install them cut through the opposite side.



5 Plug the recesses in the logs
Apply wood glue to one end of a dowel plug you cut in Step 1. Hammer the plug into the recess you drilled in the outside face of the swell post, fitting it flush slightly proud of the surface. Repeat for the second plug and end.



2 Drill recesses in the feet. Fit a drill driver with a 1/8-inch paddle bit. Holding the drill at a 45-degree angle, drill two recesses side by side that penetrate halfway through the back of the long side of a corral. Insert the subject of short side, as shown. Repeat for all corbels.



6. Attach the leg plates. Center the leg plate you made in Step 1 on leg 1 of the skirt part. Use a drill/brake and 1/4-inch-diameter bit to secure the plate to the part. Repeat for the second plate on leg 2. These plates will give you a bigger, more stable surface for attaching the leg assembly in Step 12.



X. Attach the feet to the legs
Glue the short side of a corbel to the base of a stool post, flush with its bottom edge. Hold it in place by driving 3-inch deck screws through the top corner of the corbel into the post (drill countersinks first, if necessary). Drive 5-inch lag screws diagonally through the corbel and into the post as shown. Repeat for all corners.



7. Attach the clamps. Dremelgrind the top underside of the tabletop that's 3 inches from each edge. Secure the clamps on the feet along the inside edge of the line using 1/8-inch deck screws. Space the clamps to leave enough room to install two hot strings between the spots where the leg plates will be attached.



4 Add the stretcher: Drill pilot holes through the neel posts and ends of the hemlock using the 1/4-inch paddle bit, drill 1 inch recesses in the outside faces of the posts, centered over the pilot holes. Hold the rail between the posts, and attach it by driving 6-inch long screws through the posts and into the rail.



8 Add the apron. After the seats of the hot-springs concrete are dry, apply glue to the ends and top edge of each piece. Set the min. piece on the underside of the tubs, against the outside edge of the seats, as shown. Secure them by driving 2-inch finishing nails through the apron and into the seats.

9 Insert the stringers. Set two 2x4 stringers for edge bracing on the inside, where the legs will be attached so that their ends butt against the long sides of the apron. Secure them by driving 2-inch deck screws through the apron and into the end of each stringer.



11 Position the leg assembly. Flip the leg assembly over and place it on the underside of the tabletop. Make sure the leg plates lie flat without wobbling or making. The legs should sit at an equal distance from the short end long ends of the table.

10 Trim the tabletop. Mark the ends of the quarter round 2x4s. Then, secure the pieces to the edges of the tabletop. Drill a pilot hole in the surface, using a hand of glue and 2-inch finishing nails.



12 Attach the leg assembly. Affix the leg assembly to the table by driving 24-inch deck screws through the leg plates and into the underside of the tabletop. Use screws in all corners of the plates and at least one screw along each side. Fill all hardware holes and sand the table with 120-grit paper. Prime and finish with two coats of water latex paint. Apply a coat of waterborne polyurethane to the tabletop for more protection. ■



pro advice
TOM SILVA,
THE GUY
WIRE

"For a stable table, make sure the carrels measure at least 10 1/4 inches on the long side."

want to
make
this?

Download a full
cut list and
assembly plan
at thishouse.com/1000

...and to all a good bite

Find the future favorite—and four equally indulgent variations—at MyRecipes.com/cookies

search
CHOCOLATE
DECADENCE
COOKIES

by Susan



enter today for
a chance to win
GO TO MYRECIPES.COM

\$15,000
HOLIDAY
GIVEAWAY

Browse more than 50,000 recipes for every occasion from the experts at *Cooking Light*, *Southern Living*, *Real Simple*, *Smart*, *All You*, *Cosmo Living*, and *Health* magazines

myrecipes.com

THE BEST
TOOLS ARE
THE ONES
WITH POWER.



RAMTRUCKS.COM



RAM



Photo: © Andrew Jones/Chris Webb Inc.

BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS

A complete cheat sheet to this year's freshest ideas for your home

Or here, well, most of them, are really just long to-do lists. But we, the editors of *This Old House*, do have a special one. It's the one we keep at all the cool new home products we come across in the course of the year.

Facts first: at trade shows to briefings from big tool manufacturers to peeks at the shelves of basement renovations, we see it all, and then some. And without fail we want most of it. At least at first. But that's precisely, of course. Because when it comes right down to it, most new products aren't all that special. Or necessary. Some—Teflon Titebond, anyone!—are downright absurd, not much more than thinly veiled excuses to separate us from our money.

But the products you'll find on the following pages—some budget friendly, some breakthrough, some stylish, some sustainable—they're different. They are, well, new, at the end of the year, the special ones. We could go on, but then we'd have less space for the good stuff. Better to just turn one page and see for yourself.



money-saver

easy upgrade

bright idea

eco-friendly

plunge

ILLUSTRATIONS AND ICONS BY JAMES FORD



THIS OLD HOUSE BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS KITCHEN & BATH



Clean water on tap

PUR 3 STAGE RO-DROPAL MOUNT FAUCET WATER FILTER BY PROCTER & GAMBLE

This water filter makes our jobs because unlike others, it stays on your faucet without major tools. The filter purifies about 100 gallons of drinking water before it needs changing and a red light tells you when to do that. The whole thing costs \$60 (plus shipping and handling) and ready to go for \$40 (plus shipping and handling).



Flexible fridge

20 CUBIC FOOT FRENCH COOL REFRIGERATOR BY SAMSON

The whole high-drawer is this family size fridge adapts to your needs. It's ever-changing needs with four temperature settings. You can set it at both of a super chilly 20 degrees if a week's worth of juice boxes right at night—or 33, a choice of 37 or 40 for dairy at 40. \$2,100 in stainless steel (plus shipping).



Multitasking multitasker

ISLAND KITCHEN ISLAND BY BALLARD DESIGN

It's the only design of this island that caught our eye. Offers the advantage of having a built-in plus modern design convenience, such as storage on all four sides and portability. A solid pine base supports a 57-inch long maple butcher block top. \$200.

Control the flow

FAUCET-LESS FLOW CONTROLER BY GROHE

Handshowers aren't new—they're just fun. But one with a water saving shutoff button that you can work with only one click destroys a lot on our list. Shutoff the flow when you're done and water volume is reduced without descaling the spray nozzle. It comes in six colors from cherry to elegant. \$204.



Curvaceous new classic

BAR STOOL BY THOS. MOSEY

We couldn't help but sit up and take notice of Thos. Mosey's latest bar stool design. With its gracefully curved legs and sculptural back, the handsome solid cherry perch delivers a wholly original silhouette that's both timeless. Call it a modern heirloom. \$1,200.



Queue of handy hooks

QUERQUEL HANGER BY H&M

This twenty-two foot-long classic steel hanger had ingeniously packs in the pegs in alternating directions to boost the usability at each corner. It fits on even the slimmest door of wall. \$7.99.



Think what you'll save on takeout!

"INSPIRED BY TAKEOUT" RANGE BY BLUESTAR

This admittedly pretty range packs more commercial kitchen features into a residential model than we've ever seen. It boasts only four French doors and a 30-inch oven. The burners come in a 30-inch wide 36-inch model and is available in a raft of styling finishes including matte black, bronze, silver and copper (shown). \$1,999 (plus \$500 shipping).



Lav faucet with a big reach

OUTBACK CENTURY LAV FAUCET BY AMERICAN STANDARD

We've put this a Why Dads We Think of That? award for adopting the kitchen pull-out to the bath. We also appreciate that it comes in treatment styling at a nice price. Available only from The Home Depot. \$66 in polished chrome or \$128 in white nickel.

WHERE TO GET IT? Go to thisoldhouse.com/best for links to all the manufacturers.



PLUG INTO YOUR COMFORT ZONE

RAM LARAMIE 1500



THIS OLD HOUSE
BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS
LIGHTING



Affordable LEDs for every fixture

No, we're not crazy. If these LEDs still seem pricey, consider that most of them will last longer than your mortgage. The widely-spread heat-sinking fin on GE's Energy Smart 40-watt distribute light evenly by letting it slip out the sides (100 lumens/\$50). Lighting Science Group's A19 EcoGreen is a 40-watt equivalent, boasts the longest lifespan—40 years!—and the most lumens, 420 per dollar (\$70). Lumens Lighting's Phoenix 300 Fluores is a long-range 60-watt equivalent (350 lumens, \$30). It's going for the honor of brightest with its 800-lumen EnduroLED, which squeezes a 60-watt equivalent out of 12 watts. As for the funky design, the yellow phosphor coating adds a warm incandescent glow—just like the one we've grown used to over the past 100 years or so. \$60.



STYLE
EXCLUSIVE

Re-creating
the past with
renewed style
1000+ HOURS
OF USE BY
REINVENTION

We find the pendant photo a welcome substitute for old lighting, bridging the gap between historical and decorative. A 1920s fixture created to suit heat from high-wattage bulbs inspired its open-top shade. Choose from 13 finishes for the handcrafted brass fixture. \$220. Shades: \$70-\$220.

**An outdoor fixture that
you never have to touch**
FRANKEAR LED LANTERN BY HICKOR

A thumbs up for knowing that old world looks don't have to come with old school technology. The outdoor-rated cast aluminum fixture has a translucent fog-free partition with a lens-free finish that is filled with 40 or 60 watt translucent LED that lasts up to 15 years (it's replaceable). Choose from four sizes. From \$295.



Stealthy fan
WHISPERGREEN LIFE BATH
EXHAUST BY FAUCETC

This 30-cubic-foot-per-minute built-in fan is a whisper away that activates it automatically when you enter the room. And though you may not hear it, the quiet motor (0.13 amp) is there to let you know you'll appreciate it. \$390.



THIS OLD HOUSE
BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS
FINISH MATERIALS



Fancy wall finishes
FUNKY MARBLE STONE PAINT BY DREW WILLIAMS

As specialty wall finish paints go, this one has to be the easiest to apply—and goes right over a flat latex undercoat—and among the least pricey. Available in effects from polished quartz to deepened plaster, the 12 paints come pre-filled or can be over other colors for a custom look. \$50-\$75 per gallon.



Geeky teak tiles
HOLY TILE SERIES BY JON SACKS

These decorative 12-by-12 inch wood tiles—hand-crafted by Indonesian artisans from sustainably harvested plantation teak—make a double take every time. The design designs include the Handcrafted Lines in natural teak and the Circulars dark Finish polish drawn from. From \$12.50 per tile.

ANOTHER DAY



Eco-friendly tiles

We're always wary of greenwashing, but these got the nod for their look. Too. Takeover Tileworks requires scrap lumber for its Recycled Brick tiles and also waste glass for a unique sheen, from \$8 per square foot. Another Day Tile's unique 3 by 6 inch Marbles Subway Tiles are wrapped with bamboo harvested when the woods are between five and six years old, for optional hardwood. \$25 per square foot. EcoDecor's unique Color Colored EcoGlass is timelessly clear, considering that the majority is recycled content: 25 to 40 percent consumer recycled glass, 20 percent factory waste. 2 by 2 inches to 8 by 10 inch, from \$25 per square foot.

Fine lines
DRAGGED PAPERS BY
FRIEDMAN & HALL

After working years for an upstate textile company, a decade devoted to dragage papers, our project got off in the form of 24 new colors, from brilliant jewel tones to muted pastels. They include Ruby Red (DR 1200), Mint Green (DR 1205), and Royal Blue (DR 1206). About \$100 for a double roll.



WHERE TO GET IT? Go to thisoldhouse.com/best for links to all the manufacturers.



RAM

EVERY TOOL NEEDS A TOOLBOX.

RAMBOX 1500



THIS OLD HOUSE BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS HOME TECH



Who needs cable TV?

ROKITE BOX 3-LINK MEDIA CENTER BY 3 LINK

We cherish the notion of cutting the cable bill out of the picture, and now it's technically possible. Link this media center to your router, and it plays any streaming video on the Internet for your HD television. There are other ways to do this, but none with such a user-friendly interface. \$399



Home automation at your fingertips

INFINITONIX TOUCH SCREEN BY CONTROLLA

This gadget actually does what so much new tech only promises to do: make life easier. Link this media center to your router, and it plays any streaming video on the Internet for your HD television. There are other ways to do this, but none with such a user-friendly interface. \$399



Snap-in surround sound

ENLITENS TRACK LIGHT SPEAKERS BY TECH LIGHTING

Truly one of the most clever ways to bring us low, these 15-watt speakers snap into most any track lighting as easily as the lamp. As, actually, it's an entirely new A/V arrangement. Plug the stereo transmitter into your source of tunes and get the party started. \$479 per pair

Clean heat

HERITAGE HEAT STOVE BY HEARTHSTONE

It took this mounted stove purveyor two years to bring the economic revolution of a wood burner with the clean-burning efficiency of a pellet stove. And we're thrilled they made our decision. It's the first pellet stove with a steam with pellets of gasification—a distinctive advantage that happens to heat twice the heat of coal. \$3,999



Pint-size powerhouse

DIEN MULTI FLOOR VACUUM BY DYSON

If TOH had been breathing out these awards eight years ago, Dyson's pioneering root cyclone model would've been a sure bet. As it is, we'll give one to its best fully loaded center vac. 4.12 2 pounds. \$399



It will gladly eat your vegetables

XE SERIES COMPOSER BY NATUREMILL

Designed to make composting as easy as throwing out the trash—and a lot less messy—this pick was a catch: a home composting system with a carbon filter and an automated grader that renders garden waste into a rich, ready-to-use soil in just two weeks. The indoor/outdoor bin slips inside any standard 16-inch-wide base cabinet for easy access. From \$299



Put the squeeze on photons

ENLITENS SOLAR PANEL BY SUNPOWER

We've been waiting for a breakthrough in solar cell efficiency. These panels convert up to 19% percent of the sunlight they receive into electric power, far more than any other panels. Specially shaped solar cells that occupy 3 percent more surface area than standard cells deliver up to 236 watts per panel. \$25,000 for a 2.5-kilowatt system (plus shipping)



3D for the masses

VIERA GT26 3D TV BY PANASONIC



Those who heckle the specs or the desire for a TV the size of a billboard now have access to some of the best television technology going. At 42 inches, this is the first 3D plasma TV under \$6,000. And even if you don't own a PC or an DVD, the TV features 3D glasses, a built-in 3D player and 3D glasses sold separately at \$50 a pop. \$5,700



HEAT PUMP

HEAT EXCHANGER

HOT WATER TANK

Making hot water out of thin air

AL THERMAL HYBRID SYSTEM BY CAIRN



Why mess with a heat pump that generates only hot and cold air when one system can supply AC, hot water and heat through a radiator or radiant floor? That's the level of innovation we're talking about. This system's efficiency rivals the best geothermal heat pumps—minus the pain of underground piping. \$25,000 for a 54,000 Btu system installed

WORK TO GET IT? Go to thisoldhouse.com/best for links to all the manufacturers.



THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

RAM HD 3500





THIS OLD HOUSE BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS WINDOWS & DOORS



High-design glazing for us all CUSTOM FOLDING SYSTEMS, DOORED BY FOLDING DOOR CO.

Here's a secret weiled to share: You no longer have to reinforce your property to afford an extraordinary wall of glass doors that collapse to create an indoor/outdoor space. In fact, you can order this system as if you were ordering chips—6 x 6 that simple. Custom made for openings up to 50 feet, these aluminum-framed doors are shipped as a DIY kit directly from the factory in \$699 to \$30,000 for a four-door system.

Fiberglass and wood, together at last ELEGANT SERIES WINDOWS BY MILGRO

Beyond the first fiberglass window to feature solid wood interior trim. Finally. Now you can show off stained or painted woodwork without sacrificing the myriad benefits of fiberglass-framed windows—strength, as you know, are strong, stable, not warping, insect-proof, paintable, low maintenance, and now attractive. A 3-by-6-foot double-hung slider at \$400.



WINNING
COMBO

For dogs of distinction PET DOOR OPTION BY WESTLIFE

The typical plastic doggie door has as much charm as a mudflap. That's why we fell for this wood pet hatch, which matches the door's decorative panels and preserves its design integrity. Cottage Charm in Spanish cedar: \$789 as shown.

Only you know it's faux DOOR SURROUND KIT BY FOCAL POINT

It's great to see this exterior door molding offered as a kit. The two-plaster header with decorative panels and baseboard will put the finishing touch on your home's front suspension. The painted molded polystyrene results: beads, mold ridges, and not just promises to look good for years to come. \$124.



Tint on tint off LUXEPRO FINICS TINTING WINDOWS BY SAGE

What was in waiting for tinting cars, we'll settle for electronically tinted glass, now available in triple-pane construction with a whopping 95% visible light transmission. 3 for double-pane windows. At the touch of a button, the built-in remote technology dims the glass to shade a room. Sync it with your home automation system to save energy. A 30-by-60-inch sliding window from In Window Company costs \$175.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



THIS OLD HOUSE BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS FLOORS



Wood grain without the pain—or a nail gun LUXEPLANK FLEX AND SHIP VINYL STRIP FLOORING BY AARTECHNO

The enclosed wood-grain vinyl strips of this flooring line grabbed our attention for their amazingly easy install. They click together rather than glue. And that they go down like plastic means more uniformity across the floor. And that they're made of plastic means no staining. Beveled edges complete the look. From \$3.99 per square foot.

Far-flung floorboards NAUTICAL TRAILERS VENTURED FLOORING BY TONY/ART WOODS

Up until the 1970s, the way to fix level problems in the V-shaped hulls of cargo ships was to find them out with hand-sawed joints. We were the first that a salvaged cache of this exotic lumber—including Spanish maple and Honduran mahogany—is being made into beautifully painted flooring for owners on both sides. Talk about character. From \$14 per square foot.



Fun for the whole family PUZZLE FLOOR BY GRAFFLOOR

Laying hardwood not challenging enough for you? Allow us to suggest this best of both from the best-in-class category: a life-size wood jigsaw puzzle custom made for your floor. Call up with your room measurements, and the company will ship you numbered pieces—each roughly 1 foot or 2 feet square—along with a handy diagram. Bonus: points for puzzling them together without peeling. From \$75 per square foot.

History underfoot SHAKER COLLECTION RUGS BY SHAK & ALBERT

Inspired by textile shows at Massachusetts' Hancock Shaker Museum, this line of cotton rugs is inspired by its prime: classic American weaving techniques, patterns, and colors are fresh designs that add a bit of historical flare to any floor. From \$34.



No trees were harmful in the making of this floor WOODEN PLANK FLOOR FLOORING BY LIA DE MARCHE

Obviously made with less wood, but this shifter delivers its own message. Long the planks painted with a wood grain make a very tough floor that looks as if it were made of hardwood. Great for areas where water might make coming for real solid hardwood, and where guests can get a good look. From \$11.75 per square foot.

WHERE TO GET IT? Go to thisoldhouse.com/best for links to all the manufacturers.



ONE FINELY APPPOINTED MACHINE.

INTERIOR RAM HD 3500



THIS OLD HOUSE:
TEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION



One word PVC
CLASSIC RAIN SHINGLES
NEW DESIGNER SHINGLES

The 10 shingles are made with enough variation that you'd think no two were alike — something we can't say for factory-molded ones. Benefits of cellular PVC are abundant with waste slates to merit the wood-ignorant worries of residential centers — but of course without the moisture-warps, insect and fire-bomb stowings individual owners find. Price: \$5.50 per sq. yd. (see p. 10).

Super-duper
woods

Though solid may grow old, time's true overbearance is a far scarier resource. Anytime we found these newly available—and virtually indestructible—modified woods, Call Eberle & Larrabee, Inc. One final disclaimer: neither made from nor during boring hours, consists of fibrous ships compressed in a hot VOC range from \$3.12 per linear foot. Kabinex and Accoya are not absolutely finished to look on the fronts of structural demands, with all their handsome stability. They're not resistant to fire, and aren't subject to the results of water and insect forces. Kabinex from \$2.75 per linear foot, Accoya from \$3.20 as linear foot.



Better than LEGOs

Imagine a type of waterproof
feels panel strong enough to form
airtight wall yet soft enough
to be trimmed with a box knife
and assembled with adhesive.
you can build the most intricate of
it, and tile directly onto them. No
fasteners. \$2.60 per square foot.

Oh, wait—get it: With these panels you can build the most intricate of both structures: like a stave bench, and his directly onto them. No more bracing and shuffling in timber board. \$2.60 per square foot.



Less is more
SHEETROCK ULTRALIGHT
CORNFALL PANELS BY USG

Weighing about 20 percent less than the regular stuff, these Mr. Ingalls bars are that much easier to haul and install—and happen to be our favorite Best New Product. They bear the same Class A fire rating as conventional drywall, but thanks to the colloidal chemistry in the plaster core, the material is stiffer, less brittle and easier to cut. Price: \$4.40 for a full sheet.



THIS OLD HOUSE
BEST NEW HOME PRODUCTS
TOOLS



Drywalling dynamo
HALLBARGER'S BLUITY DRYWALL THIMMER
BY HALLBARGER'S BLUITY TOOL CO.

Only a professional builder could've envisioned this, but we're pretty sure that at C.H. Green can give a T square fitted with a dual-sided, spring-loaded utility knife replaces the measuring, squaring, and striking of each cut. Just set the knife to your width and pull the square along the factory edge. Reverse. Then repeat on the opposite face. **190**



Double duty

Instead of switching planes, you can flip the lever and easily flip the blade on this amazingly ingenious design. One side gives you a 47 degree general purpose plane to shave with the grain, the other a flatter 42 degree plane for stubborn end grain work. Equally sharp? The body, milled from single block of stainless steel. \$200.

Ready set
GO-GO-NAL-SET BY BOSTON

It's hard to rethink a tool that's been around for centuries, and that's why this one's a big winner. Bosch's paired a 1½-inch and a ½-inch bit more cleverly side by side than looks into a quick-change system like those cord-drivers—a combo that covers most common-size bits. \$10



A new breed of table saw

This pack is a stark duo because it gives you the versatility of a Japanese-style table platform and a table saw. The sturdy, adjustable steel lets you cut and sand wood, metal, PVC, or tile with both hands firmly on the material while a shroud covers the blade to lower your debris impact. \$390



Grip it,
then rip it
12 VOLT MAX COMPACT
LITHIUM CLAMPSAW RECIPROCATING
SAW BY PORTER CABLE

We love that an adjustable clamp secures pipes for one-handed cutting—a twist-while-it-works speed trigger controls the 14-in. blade stroke. It also articulates, letting you get it in there and demolish light spots previously inaccessible from your crouching handiwork. \$130

WHERE TO GET IT? Go to thisoldhouse.com/best for links to all the manufacturers.



EQUIPMENT IS EVERYTHING
INTRODUCING THE NEW RAM OUTDOORSMAN





THE ALL-NEW RAM HEAVY DUTY.
6.7L CUMMINS® TURBO DIESEL.
MOTOR TREND'S 2010 TRUCK OF THE YEAR.*

APPARENTLY, FOLKS WHO
WORK THE LAND FOR A
LIVING PLAN ON DOING SO
FOR A WHILE LONGER.



RAM



MAKING A
Vintage Cottage
HER OWN.....

How one
 homeowner turned
 a nondescript
 ... 1940s HOUSE ...
 into a light-filled
 CRAFTSMAN-STYLE
 HOME

Though remodeling an older home is an undertaking that requires a lot of time and money, it surely begins with a dream. For a family doctor in Arkansas, all it takes is one glance at a before house, and a vision of what could be takes over. Indeed, Dr. Susanna Sherman is on the verge of becoming a serial renovator. "This is my third renovation," she says happily, as fitting to this 1940s house she has been remodeling in stages over the past six years.

It all started during her medical residency in Tennessee, when she bought her first house and spent her precious downtime taping up carpeting and tearing off wallpaper. "I loved the transformation—and it was great to do something physical after spending my days immersed in medicine and science and books," says Susanna, who grew up in Russellville, Arkansas, and still has family throughout the state.

BY JILL CONNORS

photographs by mark lohnson

produced by colette scanlon styling by sunday hendrichson



WARM

WELCOMES

LEFT: Family decisions great family and friends who also into the spirit of Susanna Sherman's house. The double-headed pendulum is original Craftsman-style design added during the renovation. The house also includes the second-floor porch and square bellows.



READY TO ENTERTAIN
LEFT: Close to the designers, the kitchen has the same layout of fixtures and appliances, with stone-surface materials in the main floor, granite counters, and white cabinets with new painted and glazed doors.

CLASSIC AND COZY
RIGHT: In the living room, a fireplace is on the new island, which the homeowners designed with square tiles that echo the tiled columns of the other end of the room.



FLOOR PLANS

A third bedroom and large porch with tapered columns outside, plus an open up layout inside, are new to the original 1930s house with light blue Christmas cheer.



• Moving back to Arkansas after her residency, she set her sights on The Heights,

a neighborhood near downtown Little Rock known for its vintage houses, and picked herself a holiday tune, in a festive home with family and friends stopping by. After renovating a 1930 stone bungalow, the creative remodeler noticed another place on her street.

OPEN-PLAN SPACE:
ABOVE: The living room opens up to the dining room. A great old lamp with a green shade sits on the dining table.

Friends, including general contractor Jonathan Rogers, took one look and told her she was crazy to consider it, the house looked tiny from the street, was covered in shingles, siding, and rot of chipping when you stepped inside. "There was a wooden hot tub in one of the back rooms," recalls Summers. Unfettered and embracing a Craftsman-style cottage with an exterior that suited the neighborhood, she set to work, rehiring Rogers to her builder. He recommended another local, designer Blake Jackson, to help put her ideas on paper.

Priority 1: "We needed to get rid of those rocky-drink pots on the front porch," says Rogers. Jackson designed four thick, tapered posts on chunky stone piers more in proportion to the house. To preserve maximum living space on the small porch, Rogers converted the stone piers slightly by cutting them on 16-inch-thick steel plates bolted to the porch floor. The porch roof overhang, meanwhile, gained a Craftsman-style look when Rogers removed a metal soffit, exposing the rafters and making the existing fascia board more prominent. Replacing the porch railing's turned spindles with square balusters completed the front entry makeover.

Another key feature of the exterior face-lift was a centered shed dormer, built with three windows Summers salvaged from a neighbor's house and the same exposed rafters from the porch roof. "I love the look of the dormer," she says, "and it lets in so much natural light upstairs."

Inside, the four-bedroom, one-bath house was more than it appeared from the street, with 2,268 square feet on two levels, but it lacked the Craftsman details

and feeling of spaciousness Sasana craved. The front staircase, for example, featured a spindle-style balustrade similar to one they replaced on the porch. Rogers swapped its square balusters and banded out the turned newel post.

Then walls started coming down. The living and dining rooms at the front of the house felt too confined to Sasana; she really wanted to open up the space. So they removed most of the wall between the front rooms and put in a pair of Craftsman-style half-walls with tapered columns set on top to frame the wide opening. The red oak floors were in good shape, and Rogers found new plants to match, making a seamless transition between living room and dining room.

Sasana designed the new mantel for the living room fireplace. The existing mantel had leafy woodwork ornamentation that was out of sync with Craftsman detailing, so she described the boxed panels she wanted, and Rogers took it from there.

Another wall came down between the dining room and kitchen, with Sasana preserving a portion of it as a peninsula snack counter. Dad's wife loved her easy kitchen cabinets, laminate countertops, and vinyl flooring, so she replaced all the surfaces, choosing a travertine floor, granite countertops, and a natural stone tile backsplash. To save money, she kept the cabinet boxes, had them refaced, and added new doors with a hand-glazed finish.

One of the most perplexing aspects of the existing layout was the first-floor master main, reached by a door off the kitchen. Because of the door's location and a steep-down-to-the-way-to-the-master-bedroom, Sasana is pretty sure this part of the house was originally a garage that was converted to living space by previous owners and topped with a second-floor gabled addition at some point.



FINALLY, A TUB
ASIDE The master bath includes a longed-for clawfoot tub. Why? Because it's framing through a new master bedroom. The wall stripes are a pretzel.

LOTS OF LIGHT
RIGHT The remodeled master bedroom describes a previously awkward space that resembles a garage. Large windows allow in plenty of natural light. (Stylized by Suzanne Shuford)



homeowner tip SUSANNE SHUFORD, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

"When remodeling your home's exterior, look at other houses nearby for details you can adapt. That way you can be sure your house will be in keeping with the neighborhood."

The garage was space was oddly partitioned, with a tiny central bathroom—sink, toilet, and shower, but no tub—and the rest of the space open, including the stair area that held the hot tub. To make sense of the layout, Sasana created a hallway that now leads down to the bedroom, with a pocket door to the enlarged master bath along the way. She partitioned part of the room's central space as a master bedroom closet, adjacent to the master bath. The rest portion of the space now holds a gym with a polished wood floor—yes, hot tub.

Although the dormer addition created a large, light-filled bedroom on the second floor, stretching from the front of the house to the back, Sasana reserves the entire second floor as a guest room and lives exclusively on the main floor. "I go from kitchen to gym to bed," she says with a sigh. With the rest of her off-duty hours devoted to her dogs, Jackie O and Ty Joe.

After the initial remodeling phase, Sasana contracted to rework the floor plan. In the rear of the house, off the dining room, she added a 300-square-foot sunroom with exposed rafters, knowing that 12-foot ceilings there would bring a sense of volume to the first floor. And she had a 135-square-foot laundry room built behind the gym.

So what's a restless remodeler to do next? Well, even though Rogers built shalom and Sasana's grandfather made window boxes to add another layer of detail to the exterior, the siding still galled at her. "I am dying to pull off that aluminum and restore the original wood," she says. "But I'm afraid it's going to cost a small fortune." For now, she'll just have to content herself with having created the kind of welcoming Craftsman-style home she had envisioned. At least until the next time she sees a Fox Salt sign go up on the street. ■

PERFECT PORCH

ABOVE A Craftsman fireplace floor and tapered columns are stocked above joiner's help. The house is by Suzanne Shuford. Craftsman-style

30 Down- and-Dirty Tricks for Big DIY Savings

by
John
Morell

photographs by Laura Moss

Penny-pincher, Tightwad, Cheap skate. Being it on! Here at The Old Farmer, we celebrate frugality, especially when it translates into increased efficiency, comfort, or style for our homes. From cutting your hot water bill by installing a shower timer to brightening a room with handmade sconces that you hook up yourself, the secret to saving real money is a combination of dirtiness, smarts, and sweat. So read on for clever get-your-hands-dirty ways to slash your expenses and improve your home without spending a dollar more than you have to.



Save
up to
\$50

1 **Shop the dollar store** rather than your local home center to buy specialty tools you may use only once or twice for projects such as crabs or phone wiring. **COST:** \$1 per item. **SAVINGS:** \$25 for curved long-nose pliers and \$20 for a metal compression crimper at The Home Depot. **BONUS:** No worries if tools break.

2 **Extend the lives of filters** in whole-air purifiers, bathroom fans, window air conditioners, and even your furnace by vacuuming out dust and loose dirt. Just be sure your vacuum is HEPA equipped to keep fine particulates from being released into the air. **COST:** \$0. **SAVINGS:** About \$40 for two replacement air-purifier filters. You typically have to change them four times a year, but thorough cleaning can cut that down to just two times. **BONUS:** When you've got the vacuum nozzle hooked up, use it to suck up dust bunnies and spiderwebs in hard-to-reach places.

3 **Glaze a sparsely wood floor** by sprinkling on talcum powder. Use a paintbrush to work the powder into the joints between boards and sweep away any excess. For tight spots you can use powdered gypsum that is squeezed into a tube.

COST:
\$1 for a large container of talcum powder or a syringe of gypsum powder

SAVINGS:
Starting at \$10 an hour to hire a carpenter to make repairs

BONUS:
If you go with gypsum it's also good for keeping leaks lubricated



4 Remove muck "turbo" with toothpaste rather than scraping to cover it up. Simply squeeze the paste on and rub on the wall to make good looks appear. Works with Crayola-type kids' markers as well as other tip-and-drip paint.

COST

\$1 for a tube of white toothpaste

SAVINGS

About \$25 for a primed eggshell or neutral color and prepainted paint trayliner

BONUS

Toothpaste doubles as polish for tarnished silver

5 Prime walls with "oops" paint. These mat, tint and reform at your paint or hardware store are sold at a deep discount. Just be sure to pick a matte finish as a shade that's lighter than your top coat.
COST: \$1-\$5
SAVINGS: About \$28 for a gallon of all-in-one latex primer

BONUS: Now the gutting to good use: a can of paint that would likely just be disposed of

6 Dissolve mineral deposits plugging up your showerhead. Remove the head, soaked overnight in a 50-50 vinegar and water solution. Flush out, then reinstall it to improve water flow. If the showerhead is too hard to remove, fill a plastic bag with solution and secure it around the head with rubber bands.
COST: \$2 for white vinegar
SAVINGS: \$20 or more for a new showerhead
BONUS: This trick can also unstick sink or faucet

Save
up
to
\$100

9 Loosen a stuck knob on a water valve with penetrating oil and heat rather than calling a plumber. Spray oil on the threads, dry with a towel, then point a blow dryer at the knob to expand the metal and release the knob.
COST: \$5 for a can of Liquid Wrench
SAVINGS: About \$90, based on average plumbing service call
BONUS: This trick can also unstick frozen nuts and bolts

7 Humidify your home in the winter. Turners can remove moisture from the air, making rooms feel cooler than they actually are and causing you to crank up the heat. For example, a house that's 65 degrees F with 35 percent humidity feels 3 degrees colder than one with 35 percent humidity.
COST: \$0 to place wall registers in radiators or near heat registers. For baseboard units, try the Nan-Electric Humidifier. \$35 or less at do.com. The reservoir mounts over the heater and mists the air without using any power.
SAVINGS: About \$25 a year on your heating bill by turning the thermostat down 3 degrees.
BONUS: Reducing humidity can keep paint and woodwork from cracking.

8 Get a free smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide detector. As part of a optional fee and pass prevention initiative, many state fire marshals and local fire departments offer the kit savings device at no charge to law enforcement officers and renters, as well as seniors.
COST: \$0
SAVINGS: About \$40 for a smoke alarm and a CO detector
BONUS: Many departments handle the installation fee.

10 Mail and track rebates. People often don't receive them because it can take so long to get the money back—right? Well, no more—and it's a pain to keep track of the paperwork. But you can easily follow the money with help from the free online service Rebates.com. COST: \$0
SAVINGS: It's estimated that up to 60 percent of rebates go undesired. So if you're eligible for \$200 in rebates and send all of them in, not just three-fifths, you've pocketed an extra \$60.
BONUS: Getting a check in the mail makes anyone's day.

11 Remove or cover window air conditioner units when winter's right outside. Then weathering the windows to resist any cracks, it's using aquaduct cover. Be sure to replace any old seals where the AC fits in the jamb.
COST: About \$28 for a cover.
SAVINGS: About \$100 of your heating bill for three ACs.

BONUS: Weather-tight rooms also decrease indoor air pollution by outside.

12 Improve room radiators' performance by clearing obstructions, such as drapes and by insulating them.
COST: About \$2 for insulating foam pipe sleeves.
SAVINGS: \$60 to \$100 a year off your hot water bill.
BONUS: You can direct more heat into the room with a radiant screen made of sheet metal or reflective insulation that fits behind the radiator.

13 Don't buy a leaf blower to clean up autumn leaves. Instead, make your lawn mower deck its highest level and start mowing. The mower will catch and dice the dead leaves into mulch.
COST: \$0
SAVINGS: About \$70 for an electric leaf blower.
BONUS: Your lawn's already being mowed at the same time.

14 Make a patchwork rug out of carpet remnants or samples. All you need is a little creativity, some colorful striped squares and double-sided carpet tape to sew the pieces together and hold them tight to the floor.
COST: Many dealers sell the last few feet of carpet for as little as \$3. Samples are often free, though you may have to cut off the binding with a utility knife. A roll of interlocking carpet tape is \$3 at Amazon.com.
SAVINGS: \$96, the cost of the 12.5 by 7-foot measuring with four different color carpet squares from Flor, a high-end maker of DIY-friendly stick-together plush tiles.
BONUS: Extra carpet squares double as garden kneepads.

15 Install and hide cable lines yourself. If you get carpet, ask your installer to loosen the rug at the tack strip along the room's perimeter, and fit the cable at the space under the baseboards. Reel a cable locker to install the carpet. For hardwood floors, remove the quarter round shoe molding below the baseboards. Then tuck the cable enough to grip it to the cable.
COST: \$24 for carpet-looker rental.
SAVINGS: About \$90 for a 3-hour custom cable installation.
BONUS: Use the locker to tighten up any loose carpeting.

16 Install a shower timer that slows and then shuts off the flow of water after a preset time. Use this to cut your daily showering time from 20 minutes to 10.

COST

\$25 for the automatic timer at showermag.com

SAVINGS

\$75 in water a year off your water heating bill, depending on the type of boiler

BONUS

Shorter daily showers mean less moisture-induced mold and mildew



30 Diyer's Must-Do Tasks

17 Prevent a clogged drain by replacing the sink stop trap with a PermaFlow model. It's equipped with an anti-clog paddle that you can turn via a knob mounted on the side of the trap to sweep away blockage. **COST:** \$30 for the PermaFlow, plumbingparts.net. **SAVINGS:** About **\$100** for a plumber to unclog the drain. **BONUS:** The trap paddle, as you can see and feel out-dropped shavings at that diamond-engraving ring.

Save
up to
\$250

18 Clean food stains in show windows with a poultice made of borax and white vinegar. Add to the consistency of peanut butter. Spread on the stain, cover with plastic and let sit overnight. Gently scrape off in the morning.

COST

\$5 for poultice supplies. \$14 for Stone Spray-A-Seal to prevent future stains.

SAVINGS

\$250 for repairs to do with a sealant on the countertop.

BONUS

The poultice also works on other stained concrete floors.



19 Re-tint the look of your range's new cooktop parts that have stained the life off the appliance and make it work better. **COST:** About \$19 for stainless steel burners and \$7 for chrome drip bowls at original GE electronic range. Get parts directly from the manufacturer or online dealers, such as repairclinic.com. **SAVINGS:** **\$216** (used and 100 for a new GE 30-inch freestanding electric range in black of yours can minus the cost of the replacement parts). **BONUS:** For \$5 more, you can have scratches in the porcelain finish with heat-resistant Epoxy Touch-Up enamel. rustoleum.com

20 Install solar reflector screens on windows to draw the sun's heat into the house in winter and block it out in summer. When seasons change, simply flip the screens. **COST:** \$45 per square foot at solarstore.com for windows. **SAVINGS:** About **\$270** a year in energy bills by boosting the performance of two single-pane south-facing windows by 70 percent. **BONUS:** Your hot-air sunroom might be bearable come summer.

21 Ventilate your roof to help cool your home in the summer and prevent ice dams in the winter. Do this by installing intake vents and a solar-powered fan (you may need two, depending on your roof) that draw out warm air trapped in the attic. **COST:** Systems start at \$290. **SAVINGS:** In Texas, for instance, when the savings device paid to operate a central-air unit at \$268 less in energy bills, you can save 30 percent on your electricity costs or **\$200** per year. **BONUS:** You may be eligible for federal and/or state tax rebates to help cover the cost of your setup.

22 Bundle "service calls." If you have an electrician to fix a dead electrical outlet, one work, then bring him in to replace the outlet to finally deal with that blinking light then light, you're paying for two visits that could have been handled more. **COST:** Just the extra travel parts required for the additional job. **SAVINGS:** Up to **\$175** for the second service call you don't have to pay for. **BONUS:** Many pros will inspect your home for free to identify any trouble spots that might be brewing.

23 Save a free toilet. Commodes inside today are a mystery. If 6 gallons of water per flush compared with up to 7 gallons for some older models. In an effort to conserve water, many city and municipal governments will foot the bill to get rid of those gushing greasers. Austin, Texas, for instance, covers the cost of replacing sanitary toilets that are original to homes built before 1996. Other cities, such as Seattle, give away low-flow toilets based on family size. **COST:** \$0. **SAVINGS:** **\$225**, based on the cost and installation of one low-flow toilet. **BONUS:** Lower water bills.

24 Build your own vintage look medicine cabinet from a jet. Most are simple to assemble with a screwdriver and come pre-drilled ready, so you can perfectly match the cabinet to your bathroom. **COST:** \$160 for the Recessed Medicine Cabinet Kit on jet from vintagejet.com. **SAVINGS:** **\$235**, based on a similar assembled cabinet from restoforthediy.com. **BONUS:** You can actually customize a cabinet with by switching the side the door opens from.



Save
up to
\$500

25 Boost fireplace efficiency so that your furnace doesn't have to work as hard. A radiant grate lets logs off the fire, allowing air to circulate around them for a better burn. A hearth protector acts as a shield for the fireplace and directs heat into the room rather than the masonry. **COST:** From \$80 for the grate and \$130 for a shield protector at greenleafusa.com. **SAVINGS:** About **\$240** a year in reduced heating fuel bills. **BONUS:** Transfer fires to safety up to

26 Create your own security system with battery-powered window and door sensors and motion detectors and/or spotlights. DIY systems like the GE Control Center Starter Kit and

Mosco's L70 Motion Detecting both are battery-powered, so no need for new wiring. **COST:** \$30 for the basic GE setup at homedepot.com, plus \$42 for two lights at homeautomation.com. **SAVINGS:** **\$276** a year for a new, including the cost of the equipment. Security monitoring services often install systems for free or low cost, then charge a monthly monitoring fee at about \$30. **BONUS:** No more embarrassing ring-punch phone calls to the security company when you accidentally sat out your own alarm.

27 Reface appliances rather than replace them. For the fridge, use a custom stainless steel or vinyl frame and panel kit. Updating the look of a dishwasher or trash compactor can be as simple as flipping over its existing outer panel. Many older models have reversible panels with white, an on-side and black or beige on the other.

28 Hook up accessories without an electrician. Using a low-voltage FastPlug system, you can plug a hand mixer with a standard two-outlet and simply connect paintable paper-thin wiring to the socket.

COST	SAVINGS	BONUS
From \$300 for a few square feet of FastPlugs.com	\$325 or more for a master electrician to do the work at about \$55 an hour	No poking holes in walls or losing electrical wires

COST: \$-420 for a frame-and-panel kit at fastplug.com. **SAVINGS:** **\$300** on the fridge based on the cost of a new \$700 Whirlpool 25 1 cubic foot side-by-side model in white at Sears.com. **BONUS:** Some panel kits include new switching handles.

29 Steam-clean dingy tiles. High-pressure steam removes grime and mold from tile and grout lines. Rent a heavy-duty steamer and use it on the surface in the house, including floors, showers, and counters. **COST:** \$60 for a one-day rental. **SAVINGS:** **\$872** over the cost of hiring a professional to clean an 8-by-10-foot bathroom floor. **BONUS:** Some steamers have attachments for cleaning drapes and furniture, too.

30 Replace aging washing-machine hoses with heavy-duty ones from Floplastek with a 20-year warranty. Burst water lines are one of the most common causes of home water damage. **COST:** \$-43 for a pair of hoses at tarthomproducts.com. **SAVINGS:** **\$600** just for the insurance deductible or \$5,306 the one pipe cost at home flood remediation. **BONUS:** With the washer pulled out, you can finally clean underneath it. ■



ALL ABOUT

Crown molding

Highlighting the transition between walls and ceiling, this decorative trim adds character to even the plainest rooms. The experts at *This Old House* show how to pick the right crown for your house style and budget

In the world of trim, crown is king. Lording high over casings, chair rails, and baseboards, it cuts an impressive profile with elegant curves and distinguished angles. It also elevates a room's stature, drawing the eye up to the ceiling and echoing design motifs seen in other moldings to create a cohesive and polished look for the space.

Crown's lineage reaches back to the ancient Greeks, who created the profiles and the rules of proportion that we still use some 2,500 years later. Only the materials have changed. Rather than the original heavy stone, 18th-century American craftsmen opted for more available and relatively light-weight plaster or wood crown. While these materials are still top choices for traditionalists, today's handy homeowners can also choose moldings made from foam and flexible polystyrene, which go up with greater ease than the Greeks, or even our grandfathers, could have ever imagined—no chisel, mallet, or maul required.

With new options, though, come more questions. On the following pages, *This Old House* provides the answers you need to pick the material, profile, and size that are right for your rooms. Plus, we show you whether this or other styles will be an easy choice to add a stylish touch. And with our help, you'll be one step closer to giving the trim in your house a classic, thoroughly royal treatment.

Anatomy of crown

At its essence, crown consists of an elongated profile along a wall. Adding hand-drawn lines, as shown, creates interest through the entire arrangement when referred to a crown.



Baseboard molding

Crown molding

Baseboard molding



VITALS

How much does it cost?

Stock premade pine crown molding starts at \$1.00 per linear foot (pander at \$0.50, foam at \$0.75) and flexible polystyrene at \$1.

Stock or custom?

Stock profiles are the best option and are most readily available. Custom work—creating a crown profile or using a new design—may cost more. Therefore, we recommend taking up to two weeks for lead time.



DIY or hire a pro?

Installing a cast stone crown is a project that requires a professional's skills. But the room layout of figure or carved walls, or if the molding is made of heavy plaster or built-up wood profiles, hire a pro.

How much to buy?

Measure the perimeter of the room, then add 10 to 15 percent for waste. For rooms with lots of corners, add 20 percent.

White paint in a high-gloss sheen accentuates the carved detail in this room's crown molding. But the room layout of figure or carved walls, or if the molding is made of heavy plaster or built-up wood profiles, hire a pro. **How much to buy?** Measure the perimeter of the room, then add 10 to 15 percent for waste. For rooms with lots of corners, add 20 percent.

Pick your material

What a molding is made of determines how it's installed and how much it costs

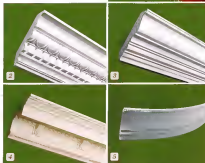
1. Wood: Lightweight and relatively flexible, this DIY-friendly material comes in 8- to 20-foot lengths and is installed with finishing nails. Stock paint-grade crown runs \$2.50 to \$7 per linear foot; stain-grade woods range from \$1 to more than \$10. Shown: 7 1/2-inch-high 6300 in walnut, \$24.32 per linear foot, plus \$65 custom fee, bainbrothers.com

2. Plaster: Because it's made to order in 8-foot lengths, each hand-cast piece can be richly ornamented with cusped tails. Plaster is heavy and rigid, and usually requires a pro to install it using screws and construction adhesive. Joints are filled with plaster, then the surface must be painted. Prices range from \$5 to \$30 per linear foot. Shown: 4 1/2-inch-high Georgian 2010, \$8.95 per linear foot; mcmurdo.com

3. Plaster-on-wood foam: The 8-foot lengths of extruded polystyrene are topped with fiberglass and a thin coat of acrylic plaster. It's light and flexible as wood, as seamless as solid plaster, and DIY-friendly; joint compound holds it in place and fills seams. Like plaster, it has to be painted. Stock profiles range from \$1.80 to \$7.75 per linear foot. Shown: 6 1/2-inch-high CTR 613, \$4.12 per linear foot; canamould.com (To see how it's installed, go to thisoldhouse.com/foam/.)

4. Polyurethane foam: Cast in 8- and 12-foot lengths, it looks like plaster but is lightweight and doesn't require professional installation. Construction adhesive holds it in place; joints are filled with caulk. Stock profiles cost \$3.75 to \$45 per linear foot. Shown: 4 1/2-inch-high Camillewood Crown 11750, \$9.35 per linear foot; foamcraftproducts.com

5. Flexible polystyrene: Cast in 8- to 12-foot lengths, it cuts like wood but is much heavier. Can fit a radius as small as 24 inches. Construction adhesive and finishing nails hold it in place. Choose a painted or stained-wood look finish. Stock profiles range from \$1 to \$17 per foot. Shown: 4-inch-high paint-grade 126, \$12.69 per linear foot; flexiblefoam.com



How to duplicate crown

When you can't find a matching profile at a lumberyard or home center, the easiest way to get a copy of your existing crown is to send a photo to a wood millwork shop or maker of flexible plaster moldings, such as Pygon or Hyde Park. But if a supplier's handy polystyrene crown doesn't have details like dentils and flutes, make a template using a profile gauge (left). Press the caulk-like device against the crown, then trace the shape onto cardboard, cutting which edge is the crown's face. Shown: Stainless-steel tracing profile gauge, \$23.50, toolcity.com



Choose your style

Take cues from your home's age to find the right crown. Here are a handful of American house styles with an example of a profile that fits each one:

contemporary

The use of crown named in the 1940s, but simple strips are a handsome upgrade to more modern ranches and split-levels, so long as they're in proportion to the ceiling height. Inset: 2 1/2-inch-high M2003 DS in grey; thetrueloc.com, \$21.30 per linear foot; pygon.com



colonial

The colonial crown was played by hand from the New World's plentiful supply of wood. Simple profiles predominated, ending in the high end of a building's vertical face; current details: Inset: 2 1/2-inch-high 6304 in oak, \$1.35 per linear foot, plus \$65 custom fee; bainbrothers.com



victorian

In the late 19th century, Americans favored ornate, fluted crown moldings, and often surrounded with decorative details, such as dentils and acanthus leaves. Inset: 8-inch-high CM250 in plaster, \$22.65 per linear foot; hyde-park.com



arts and crafts

This early 20th-century style supplanted Victorian's in a room with a vaulted ceiling or two steeply pitched roofs. Crown could be painted or, if milled from quality wood, work as a stained, light-highlight beauty. Inset: 4 1/2-inch-high Craftsman Cass in poplar, \$6.25 per linear foot; seventhill.com

Style options

Nearly any profile and embellishment can be incorporated into crown molding. Here are some standard choices.

Distinguished details

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high RENE, R206, and R303 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, two-dimensional).

Classical carving

The crown of elegant Greek and Roman motifs, this molding has both intricate lines and a sculpted, undulating surface. Shown: 2½-inch-high CM301 in plaster, \$22.50 per linear foot. www.bakerbros.com

Bead and curve

Inspired by the typical arch, there's a bead around the perimeter of the crown. This crown is solid, making it a great choice for locations that don't touch the ceiling, such as bedrooms and hallways. Shown: 2½-inch-high R273 (wood stained pine, 1½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Becky look

Known as the "becky" crown, this crown is a classic look. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Double bead

A two-piece crown with a bead around the perimeter. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Ornamental oval

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Star shape

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).



Ornate plaster

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Strong and simple

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Deco faces

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Understated elegance

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Rope border

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Greek key

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

Beads and curls

The crown is paired with a highly detailed scroll molding and fluted treatment. Shown: 2½-inch-high R206 (wood oak, 2½-inch-deep flut, quarter-round crown).

What size should it be?

Keep these rules of thumb in mind when selecting crown for your house

Consider the room's purpose. Traditionally, crown was incorporated into impressive corners in public rooms, such as entry halls, living rooms, and parlors. The size would remain consistent from one first-floor entertaining space to the next. By contrast, smaller (and a bit less formal) crown was generally used for private spaces—powder rooms or bedrooms.

Play off the ceiling trim. Look to your baseboards and door and window casing to determine the right scale. An appropriately sized cornice is either the same height as, or slightly smaller than, the baseboard.

Measure the ceiling height. Ceiling height is the ultimate arbiter of size, according to architect Richard Sammons, coauthor of *Get Your House Right*. For standard 8-foot high ceilings, the crown/cornice height should be 2½ to 6 inches; for 9-foot ceilings, 3 to 7½ inches; and for 10-foot ceilings, 3½ to 8 inches.



How to install crown

See Tom Silva demonstrate techniques of buying, finishing and installing crown molding at thisoldhouse.com/basics



How to handle corners

Crown molding is usually installed so that it appears to rise seamlessly around a corner. It's easier to do that with fluted and plaster trim because the joints are filled, they don't need to be perfect. With wood crown, filling isn't an option—corns have to be precise so that joints are virtually invisible. That's the challenge: as the wood dries, where corners are never exactly 90 degrees and wood fibers are constantly swelling and shrinking. Here are two ways to keep joints tight.

Coping: This technique, used only with wood crown on inside corners, involves cutting along the profile of one strip so that it fits over the face of the adjoining one. It takes skill and time to make that cut, but it's much better than an inside joint or hiding an joint, and it's forgiving of out-of-square corners. To learn how to cut copes, go to thisoldhouse.com/basics.

Corner blocks: These factory-made pieces, placed at outside and inside corners (below), often save the need for coping or miter cuts. The miter ends just butt up against the block's sides. A slight bevel in the back of the crown makes tight joints at out-of-square corners. Corner blocks come in different angles and can be used with any material. They do imply symmetry, but because they project slightly beyond the profile, they can be sanded down to continuity.



pro advice

TOM SILVA
FOYDEN/GENERAL CONTRACTOR

To minimize your view of the joints in wood crown, make sure the copes and bevel joints point away from the room's main entry, where you might otherwise see shadow lines between sections.

More ways to use crown

Ceilings and walls are not the only places where molding can add style. Here are some ways crown can boost the decorative detail of existing elements in your home



+ over a shelf

Coping with a board, the crown above this window serves as a handsome shelf for displaying baskets in a pantry. Similar to shown: 4½-inch high KB260 is finger-jointed pine/plane, \$2.32 per linear foot; tulcanbrothers.com

+ on cabinets

In a kitchen, crown molding adds dimension to upper cabinets, mixing them and the room's feel to it. Similar to shown: 4½-inch high KB290 is popular. \$8 per linear foot; tulcanbrothers.com



+ above an entry

Coping the hand-coping with crown gives this and classical styles to your door or passageway. Similar to shown: 3½-inch high ML2560 is 12 in. polyurethane. \$2.62 per linear foot; tyler.com



+ on a mantel

Green is a fitting way to finish the top of a fireplace mantel. The outside corners show off the molding's sloped profile to full advantage. Similar to shown: 3½-inch high TM2570 is made oak. \$7.65 per linear foot; timell.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Available at FIS Presented by

[illegible]

GMC



© 2011 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 270: 103–110

inside

NEW DOORKNOBS

TILTED TUB

CRACKED CORIAN

MORE



41
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

Q Why are there so many types of wire brushes?

—DROTTA FLAFARE
J. THORNTON, JR.

[illegible]

PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE MICHIGAN STATE

● 1997年10月1日起，凡在境内销售货物或提供应税劳务的纳税人，均须依法缴纳增值税。

★ Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General ContractorNORMAN LAM
Kitchen SupervisorRICHARD TRETHELEY
Plumbing and Heating ExpertKARIN DOON
Landscape ArchitectREYNOLD CONNOR
Roof

I would like to replace my old, worn doorknobs. But it seems wasteful to replace the existing latch mechanisms too, because they work just fine. Can I put new knobs on old door hardware?

—ANNE STEEDY, CHICAGO

Tom Silva replies: With a bit of luck, you might be able to find new knobs that fit onto your existing spindles, the square metal bars that connect the knobs on both sides of the door. But you'll probably have an easier time finding knob sets, pairs of knobs that are already attached together. Architectural salvage yards are a good place to track down vintage knobs, but be sure to take one of your existing knobs and its spindle with you to make sure the new ones will fit. With knob sets, you can widen your search to online sources because you just need to match the length and width of your existing spindle.

Then again, maybe you don't have to replace the knobs at all. A buffing wheel and a bit of multipurpose metal polish, like Flitz (flitz.com), may be all it takes to have your old brass and bronze knobs glowing like new. Or, if that seems like too much work, consider turning the knobs over to a local hardware restorer. One option for you would be Al Bar Wilmette in Wilmette, Illinois (albarwilmette.com).

To remove a doorknob, simply loosen the set screw on the back of the knob that holds it tight to the spindle. Then slide off or unscrew the knob from the spindle.

OUT-OF-LEVEL TUB

The upstairs bathroom is about 1/4 inch lower on the wall side than on the open side, leaving an uneven gap between the tub and the tub's edge. I think the gap might be the source of a slight leak affecting the ceiling in the room below. Is it possible to level a tub that's been in place for 40 years?

—JOHN MOULTON, WASHINGTON, PA.

Richard Trethewey replies: If your tub was lower on the open side than the wall side, then it might be possible to shim it up and make it level. But there's no way to shim up a tub that's lower on the wall side.

The only way to level your tub is to remove it, fix whatever is causing it to tilt—sagging joists, a rotting subfloor, a poor installation many years ago, or all of the above—and reinstall it. It's going to be a lot of work, and will require the services of a plumber to disconnect and reconnect the tub's water supply and drain lines, but at least you'll have the chance to inspect the floor and framing.

Or simply cover the gap with 6-inch-long strips of ceramic board molding, unsanded and ground with a tub-and-edge adhesive caulk. If that doesn't stop the leak, I suspect that your tub-drain assembly needs to be fixed, which will involve cutting into the ceiling below.

BLUE SPRUCE, BRIMMING NEEDLES

About 20 years ago, I planted two rows of Colorado blue spruce trees to create a privacy hedge and wind break. I wanted to look to the trees out, and the remaining trees have ugly brown lower branches. Will they green up now that they're getting more light?

—JOHN FOWLER, CHESTER, NY

WHAT IS IT?



- A Cackle hole punch
- B Rabbit spacers
- C Flooring wedge
- D Or

PAPER AIRS
ALL PAGE 5

The branches on these blue spruce died back because of overwatering. The only solution is to plant dense shrubs or another tree to take the dead area from view.

Roger Cook replies: Unfortunately, spruce trees won't regrow new needles on brown branches. They may drop some a few green branches from the trunk, but the brown branches are dead and will never fill out. To avoid that, I usually dig up some of the trees when they start to get crowded and transplant them to other parts of the yard. But as that project, all you can do is fill in the spots where trees have been removed.

First, prune off all the totally brown branches. Any branch that still has some green needles might be okay. Then put in some large shrubs that grow fairly fast. A plant like *Wormwood* (*Artemisia*) or *Wormwood* (*Artemisia*) will grow fairly quickly and flower, too. Their dense mass of branches would help cover the dead area even if worse than they drop their leaves. An even better alternative would be *Abutilon* (*Abutilon*) or *Abutilon* (*Abutilon*).

Either one would fill the hole fairly quickly and provide flowers and year-round greenery.

REMOVE A GARAGE SUPPORT POST

We have a two-car garage with masonry columns roughly in the middle, right where it interferes with getting in and out of a parked vehicle. Is there any way we can remove this column?

—CLARET HARRISON, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Tom Silva replies: Sure, but getting rid of the post entirely will be expensive. That post is holding up the middle of a beam, so if you take the post away, the beam will have to be replaced with one that is significantly stiffer and heavier. And that new beam would probably require bracing up the walls under each of its ends and possibly the beams under each of those walls. This is not a DIY project; you'll need a design approved by a structural engineer, and a contractor to do the work.

You could save a lot of money if you let the beam alone and just move the post slightly one way or the other to give you enough clearance.

to open a window that if the post has to be moved more than a few inches, you may have to install another support column. Easier way, bring in an engineer to confirm whether it's safe to relocate or add a post.

STAIR-TREAD SURPRISE
After we removed the carpet from our stairs, we discovered that a very old tread has two pieces of quarter round molding nailed to the front edge to form a shelf: round rising. Ugly, very ugly. Can we replace them with oak half rounds, milled to fit?

—DENNIS JAMES, MEDIA, PA.

Norm Abrams replies: You could, but you don't need to. I suspect that your treads were probably square-edged originally, and those quarter-round moldings were added to make it easier for the carpet to roll over the front of the treads. That would also explain why whoever installed the moldings wasn't too concerned about how they looked.

If these were my stairs, I'd simply remove the molding pieces, fill the nail holes with putty that matches the wood color as closely as possible, then sand the top edges slightly so that they won't splinter when people step on them.



Q • HINGE PIN REMOVER

The Roberts Bony Hinges go to knock out hinge pins without damaging the door or the hinge. And it has two keys to hold the pin and it's time to put them back. \$10 Amazon.com

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



I'd like to put one of those beautiful round wood inlays in my wood floor. How do I go about it? —MARK TURNER, LEESBURG, VA.

Charles Peterson of CP Wood Floors replies: What you're talking about is a floor medallion, a type of ornamental flooring designed to give a room a dramatic decorative focal point. They're made to order using colored pieces of precisely cut hardwood mounted on a plywood backing. In the best cases, these pieces are

at least 3/4 inch thick and can be sanded multiple times.

Installation requires cutting into your floor with a router and then bedding the medallion in adhesive spread on the subfloor. The process is painstaking but, thanks to the router template supplied by the factory, takes only a few hours.

Making one do these steps in one go. If you risk more than a few hours after routing the floor, your subfloor may change shape and sag, forcing you to rest it again.

Charles Peterson notes: CP's 2000 company's new medallion made of Brazilian cherry, mahogany, red oak, and wenge. Inlet level of adhesive.

Cost: \$500 to \$3,000 for an unfinished 36-inch medallion.
Time: 3 hours.
Difficulty: Moderate.
Requires making a precise cut with a router.

STEP BY STEP

Install a floor medallion

1. Measure the flooring's thickness

Medallions are made to match the thickness of your flooring. Before you order yours, use a tape square to find out subfloor pieces of flooring from the spot where the medallion will be and send this piece to the medallion maker. Flooring that's thinner than 3/4 inch can't accommodate a solid-wood medallion.



4. Check the subfloor

Pop up the flooring made from wood glue, then remove the template's rest cap. Make sure that the subfloor is flat and even by tilting a straightedge across the cutout and sliding a piece of scrap flooring under it. If necessary, smooth the subfloor with 40-grit sandpaper and/or random-orbit sander.

2. Find the flooring nails

Using a push pin, locate a hole in the template's shape. Lay the template on the floor and mark it by drawing several around the template's outside edge. Place a nail into the hole where each floor joint crosses the pencil line. If you detect a nail, adjust the template location and repeat the process until the line is mostly nail-free.



5. Spread the adhesive

Use a 3/4-inch by 1/2-inch brush to apply wood-flooring adhesive evenly over the subfloor. Peterson prefers Bostik's Best because it's urethane for fast drying, low VOCs, and flexibility. If the adhesive gets on the floor or your hands, wipe it up with a solvent, such as Fluidex, a universal adhesive remover.

3. Rout a circle

Using double-end carpet tape, secure the template on the pencil line. Chuck a 3/4-inch template bit with a top bearing into a router and run it clockwise around the inside of the template. Start with a 1/8-inch-deep pass. Then remove the cloth by 1/4-inch for each pass until the bit reaches the subfloor. If you hit a nail, stop it down with a nailer.



6. Drop in the medallion

The trick here is to set the medallion 1/8 inch below the surface without any sideways tilt, an essential with strong, long-lasting materials. Once it's in place, tap the medallion with the surrounding floor using a mallet or wood block to prevent movement. When the adhesive cures, the medallion can be finished if needed.

Q CRACKED CORIAN SINK
My kitchen's Corian
countertops are laminate shapes,
but there's a 10-inch half-line
crack in the built-in Corian sink.
Can it be repaired?

—MARLAINE DENNIS, WASHINGTON, DC

Kate O'Connor replies: According to Bill Clancy, customer-service expert at Back to Perfection, the largest authorized service company for Corian in the U.S., cracked Corian countertops can be repaired, cracked sinks cannot. But here's the good news: The bowl can be replaced without affecting the existing countertop.

Clancy says that a repair specialist takes a pourer and cuts out the old bowl, then glues on a new bowl and blends the seams so that they're all but invisible. The process takes three to five hours. A new bowl comes with a 10-year warranty.

To find a matching bowl, look on the underside of yours for its model number and color, or go to Corian's website. Clancy says the installation, including the bowl but not the plumbing, generally runs from \$700 to \$1,200. There might be a slight color difference between the new bowl and your old countertop, but Clancy says it can be earned if you have the countertops refinished at the same time, for an additional charge starting at \$425.

send your questions to
ask@thisoldhouse.com

29 For thisoldhouse.com or thisoldhouse
magazine. Ask This Old House
This Old House magazine
235 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10012

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Publication cannot be held responsible for length and style of your letter. We will not return letters. We will not assume any liability for loss of or damage to property.



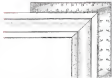
Norm's tricks of the trade



I'm trying to make picture frames with a miter saw, but the joints aren't tight. Any way to fix that?

—JANARD HOUSE, OPTIMA, MINN.

A Bad miter joint on picture frames can be caused by one of two things. Either the saw isn't cutting the miter accurately or, more commonly, the lengths of the pieces on opposite sides don't match. With these simple tricks, you can quickly determine the cause of your loose miter. By the way, these techniques also come in handy when installing crown molding around a window or panel openings on a wall.



1 To test if the size is right, place the miter on a flat surface. If the miter is not square, the miter is not square. If the miter is not square, the miter is not square. If the miter is not square, the miter is not square.



2 If only one piece with a mitered joint is loose, the miter is not square. If the miter is not square, the miter is not square. If the miter is not square, the miter is not square.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



2 carats of
Genuine
Tanzanite
Save \$700!

African Gem Cutter Makes \$2,689,000 Mistake... Will You?

This may be the last time you'll see a tanzanite ring. In 1967, a tanzanite ring was knocked on the floor of a gem cutter's office in Nairobi, Kenya. The tanzanite had brought along an enormous chunk of tanzanite and he was looking to sell. He asked \$200,000. But the gem cutter was suspicious and assumed that a stone so large could only be glass. The cutter told the tanzanite, no thanks, and sent him on his way. Huge mistake. It turns out that the gem was genuine and would have easily fetched the world's largest cut tanzanite at the time. Based on common pricing, that "chunk" could have been worth close to \$5,000,000.

The tanzanite gem cutter asked his client to hit the jewelry's jackpot and make history. Would you have made the same mistake then? Will you make it today?

In the decades since its discovery, tanzanite has become one of the world's most coveted gemstones. Found in only one remote place on Earth (in Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro), the precious purple stone is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. Lucky indeed have been quick to take the stone, warning that supplies of tanzanite will not last forever. And in this case, they're right. Over the last decade, the price of tanzanite has risen. No more tanzanite. Most believe that we only have a few years supply left, which is why it's so amazing for us to offer this incredible price. Some retailers along with us are more than happy to charge you outrageous prices for the rarity. Not Stauer. Staying true to our customer's needs, we've decided to lower the price of one of the world's rarest and most popular gemstones.

Limited
Availability

Less Than
\$60,290
Ounces
of Tanzanite
Remain in
This Special
Purchase.

Our 2-Carat Tanzanite Ring features a unique cut gem set in a 14K gold ring. Each facet speaks with the distinct violet-blue hue of the precious stone. Behind the stone you'll find that the exquisite silhouettes of the setting cells to add the detailed to make being produced by Stauer's finest jewelers. This is a ring designed to impress and it does not disappoint.

Now is the point where opportunity knocks. If you open that door today, you can own this spectacular ring for less than \$1000 if you want! We can't say for sure.

Your satisfaction is completely guaranteed. For our client-friendly approach, Stauer has earned a 5.0 rating from the Better Business Bureau, a rating we wish to keep. So of course, your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you are not completely satisfied with the Stauer Tanzanite Ring, send it back within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund. But, please don't wait, our supply is dropping rapidly.

STAUER'S PRICE:

2 carat genuine tanzanite • 14K gold ring setting • Ring size 5-7

Stauer's Genuine Tanzanite Ring (2 ct) • \$2999

Now \$95 - Save \$700

Call now to take advantage of the limited offer

1-888-201-7112

Personalized Code: TZK2000 WE

Please mention this code when you call



Stauer has a Better Business
Bureau Rating of A+

Stauer

1400 Lakeside Drive W. Dept. TZK2000-141
Des Moines, IA 50319

SEEK OUT

To receive literature visit www.thisoldhouse.com/marketplace — your online resource, or call 800-424-0055TOH
TOOL
TEST

12-volt drill/drivers

Thanks to lithium-ion batteries, compact drills that would have been intractably underpowered a few years ago can now handle drilling and driving tasks once reserved for much larger, heavier tools. TOH assistant editor Jeff Kingston put these 16 new drills through their paces to find which ones have the best power, comfort, and run time. *

MILWAUKEE 2410-22

Price: \$150 mke.com

Test results: Drove 50 screws drilled 37 holes, recharged in 33 minutes. Torque lost (during a lag screw) 0/10.

My two cents: "Smooth, consistent power up until the very last battery. Shut it back down in the hole but, shut down if you're taking it to prevent motor or battery damage."

Tool stats: 2.5 pounds, 250 in.-lb. of torque, 1,500 rpm max speed, 22 clutch settings, LED task light and battery indicator, two batteries.



"The best subcompact battery life and comfort."

*All tools tested with 16-volt, 4000mAh, 10-amp quadrate and 3.7-volt lithium-ion battery packs. The clutch is approved setting for the battery.



DEWALT DCD710S2

Price: \$150 dewalt.com

Test results: Drove 516 screws drilled 26 holes, recharged in 40 minutes. Torque lost (during a lag screw) 0/10.

My two cents: "Drove more screws than any other battery, a close second in the torque test. It's a comfortable grip and handy size."

Tool stats: 4 pounds, 1,000 rpm max speed, 15-clutch settings, LED task light, two batteries.



RIDGID RB2008

Price: \$140 ridgid.com

Test results: Drove 45 screws drilled 34 holes, recharged in 33 minutes. Torque lost (during a lag screw) 0/10.

My two cents: "Second best of drilling holes and first best in the torque test. Fully ready to use."

Tool stats: 2.5 pounds, 240 in.-lb. of torque, 1,500 rpm max speed, 18-clutch settings, LED task light, two batteries. Comes as a kit with LED flashlight.

PORTER-CABLE

PCL1200DC-2

Price: \$100 deta.com

Test results: Drove 45 screws drilled 25 holes, recharged in 34 minutes. Torque lost (during a lag screw) 0/10.

My two cents: "A respectable run of battery life, torque, and recharge time. The belt hook was unusable and became hot when the tool was working hard."

Tool stats: 2.4 pounds, 220 in.-lb. of torque, 2,000 rpm max speed, 20-clutch settings, LED task light, two batteries.



CRAFTSMAN NEXTEC

Price: \$70 cm.com

Test results: Drove 525 screws drilled 25 holes, recharged in 30 minutes. Torque lost (during a lag screw) 0/10.

My two cents: "Very comfortable grip and clutch recharge time. Lights on the charger are nice. Hard to use."

Tool stats: 2.2 pounds, 195 in.-lb. of torque, 1,300 rpm max speed, two speeds, 15-clutch settings, LED task light, one battery.



202 APPLIANCES

1. CLIMATEMASTER: ClimateMaster's new heating and cooling air units up to 100,000 Btu are a great way to heat your home. Federal tax credits now give you an additional 30% on total installation.

2. GE APPLIANCES & LIGHTING: GE Appliances is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. GE's new line of lighting products is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

3. 202 AUTOMOTIVE: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

4. GAC GEAR: GAC Gear is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. GAC Gear is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

5. TIGER BRAND: Tiger Brand is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. Tiger Brand is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

6. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

7. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

8. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

9. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

10. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

11. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

12. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

13. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

14. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

15. 202 BUILDING PRODUCTS: The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 202 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

207 KITCHEN

CROWN POINT: Crown Point is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. Crown Point is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

16. THE HOME DEPOT: The Home Depot is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The Home Depot is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

17. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

18. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

19. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

20. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

21. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

22. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

23. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

24. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

25. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

26. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

27. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

28. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

29. 207 KITCHEN: The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 207 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

30. ARROW: Arrow is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. Arrow is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

31. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

32. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

33. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

34. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

35. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

36. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

37. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

38. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

39. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

40. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

41. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

42. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

43. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

44. 314 TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home. The new 314 is a great choice for a wide range of products to enhance the look of your home.

directory { December.10 }



Cover: For more information, see the listing for "Get The Look."

Methods and Materials

Particularity needs
periodic visit

(pp. 25–26) Kitchen designer and custom cabinets: Rebekah Zaveloff, KitchenLab LLC, Chicago, IL, 773.496.4383

schoolshades.com. **Pendant lighting:** SchoolHouse Electric, schoolhouseelectric.com.

over Breakfast each pendant night and
wall-hung. Features: Green Lighting
677-762-2323 centrallighting.com

Refrigerator: GE Profile PSE42YGASF, GE
gas cook. Stone mosaic tile: Bishop 4 inch

border in Linen, Empressor Oak, and Nara
Pure Black. Any Sacks, 800-338-8453,
www.sacks.com. **Subway tile:** 33¢/sq ft.

Ventila Schone Tackmakers Windsor CA 707 433 6237 saunders@tackmakers.com
Blacklight's border tile Ivory and Burgundy (J.R60-38) Burgundy (J.R.P. 6H90) and Ivory and Burgundy (J.R.M. 30) K.J. Patterson Inc. 626 472-7237 (for distributors) **Ranger** T10333 PW Five Star, Firebrand and **Hood** DAH2556 Vent-A-Hood 800 331 2452 ventahood.com **Cabinet knobs and pulls** Restoration Hardware 800 662-6826: info@rehabwh.com

Budget Bed: A transformed half bath for just \$172 (p. 30) **Frank Green**
Tel: 1-800-86-Behr, 877-237-6288 behr.com

Shopping: Wall-mount mailboxes (pp. 12-13) *Thanks to Nancy Pope*; historical and quirky Smithsonian National Postal Museum; postable items *see index*.

Paint Ideas: Create a curvy Moroccan-star design (pp. 26–27).
Decorative painter: Brian Carter, Atlanta, GA.
678-642-2429. briancarterpaints.com.

Get This Look! Craftsman-style holiday entry (p. 30-35) **Woods** Christmas in the Woods. The Magnolia Company. themagnoliacompany.com. **Fast forward:** Light Red Frost Berry Pick, Jamie Garden, jamiegarden.com; **Midcent:** 214 vch Copper Yarrow, jamie-garden.com. **Down:** Downst Collectors in Berry #22539, Garnet Hill, garnethill.com; **Seaside:** Sandbar in Antique Copper with Brown & General w/ glass, @seasidebar, @seasidebar.com.

Plumber: [Wetlegs-40" 17% inch square](#)
term: [cattle lookplumber](#) [Jasiah Gordon](#)
Search: [Weathered Outdoor #32009](#)
Gravel: [Road gravel](#) [graveland.com](#) **Pillow:**
Shopping: [Rose in Burgandy from First](#)
Craftsmen: [Shades Oak Park Home](#)
Hardware: [708 443 3050](#) [wallpaperhome](#)
hardware.com **House numbers:** [Cast](#)
Copper Arts & Crafts: [Dark Pink Home &](#)
Hardware: [Firewood bucket:](#) [Large Copper](#)
Log Bucket: [Flow & Health](#) [cleaneearth.com](#)



remodeling.com • **Designer:** Dinka Jackson
Little Rock, AR 501-435-7590 • **Joyce:**
Quarles: Holidayparty-800-888-0101
holidayparty.com • **Dining room:** Rug
Courtesy of Joseph Saba, Oriental Rug Co.
501-683-1444 • **Ceiling:** none • **Courtesy of:**
Mary Shimmer, Joy Family Catering
Riversville, AR 478-968-5258
jondm@jondm.com • **Table, linen:**
runner, napkins, and hurricanes: Pottery
barn potterybarn.com • **Living room:** Rug
Courtesy of Joseph Saba, Oriental Rug Co.
Red leather chair: Courtesy of Danka

Handyman: Handyman Home Furniture
Conway, AR 504-327-6523; **Green Thaw**
Bedroom: 888-763-4562; www.steinart.com; **Painting**: **Painted**: By Large Clock
Country of Central Gallery Little Rock, AR
501-224-1335; centralgallery.com; **Master
beds: Glazing and painted stripes**: Gm
Lowery, Fox-Fabulous, 501-247-3113
Master bedroom: Photography: By
Andrew Wilson, Country of Central Gallery

All About: *Cover Modeling* (p. 82-85)
Thomas & Brent Hall: *Professionalism* (p. 86-87)
Richard Sammons: *Festive & Sammons Architects* (New York, NY)
richardsammons.com For additional information about cover modeling, send
Get Your House Right: Architectural Elements to Use & Avoid by *Marlene Caputo & Ben Peabody with Richard Sammons & Jason Koss* (Shoreline Publishers)

Ask This Old House (pp. 96-98)
Crafted Carian style: Book is Perfecton
 Solina Beach, CA 555-595-2357 book is
 perfect on com. **Creation of the Month**
Urethane wood flooring adhesive: Book is
 Best book is com. **Adhesive remover:**
 Book is Ultimate. Thanks to Charles
 Peterson CP Wood Floors, Gates Ferry, CA
 440-44-5024 speedoflows.com **Tool**
Test 96-inch square bit: Irwin Speedbor
 800.822.7777 com. **Book link server:**
 booklinkserver.com

Editorial and this distribution does not constitute any position or recommendation or advertisement on the part of the publisher.

[illegible]

NEED PLUMBING OR HEATING SUPPLIES?

When we say fast delivery...



We mean fast.

The Largest Selection • The Lowest Prices • "IndyFast" Delivery

Save 5% when you
visit craigslist.org **OLDFHOUSE**

PexSupply.com



www.pexsupply.com 888.757.4774



Shareholder's name

TQW TV: Front and center (pp. 47-48)
Architect: Harriet Christine "Chris" Cho
AIA, West Newton, MA 617/965-8004
chris@architect.com

Home Center Project: Make a trawler table (pg. 51-54) All materials available at Loxley at 800-445-6937. www.loxley.com

Making a Vintage Cottage Her Own (pp. 70-75) **General contractor:** Jonathan Rogers, Impact LLC, Little Rock, AR
501.660.2525; littlerockcountymd.com

100. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/paradox>. Accessed April 10, 2013.

 **ROCKLER**
WOODWORK • FINISHES • TOOLS • SUPPLIES**FREE Catalog!**

This catalog could be the most useful tool in your shop. It's where you'll find that elusive hardware solution, rare piece of hardwood, unique molding and innovative tool or jig that takes your project to the next level. You'll find over 10,000 items to choose from, with new items being added every month!

Get your **FREE** catalog today at www.radder.com/go/Y0386 or
call 1-800-803-9736 (Cable 100)

Heating Supplies



Order Online at www.pexsupply.com
Save 5% when you use coupon code **OLDHOUSE**
(Offer Expires 12/31/10)



Real People Real Service
PexSupply.com

www.pexsupply.com • 888.757.4774

BARN LIGHT
WHERE VINTAGE and MODERN COLLIDE™



Your online source for Scenics, Goose-necks, Pendants, and vintage-inspired Porcelains, Enamel Shades

606-437-6764 www.barnlightusa.com

From Rustic Cabins to Custom-Designed Homes...



Any Home Can be a Log Home

The Nation's leader in quality tongue-a-growe Log Siding & Knotty Pine Paneling.

SALE! 10%!

New in Existing Homes • Basements • Bars • Rec Rooms
Kitchens • Bath's • Studies • Garages • Out Buildings • Cottages

Customer Satisfaction... We Guarantee It!

THE WOODWORKERS SHOPPE

Skylar Woods' finest log home products are available at the Woodworkers Shoppe in Corvallis, Oregon... We Ship Nationwide!

Call (800) 818-9971 • woodworkershoppe.com

Finest select oak, inspiring European stone and fireplace

Rustic Oak



WITTUS
SINCE 1978

T 914-764-3678
www.wittus.com

VintageDoors.com
FREE CATALOG (800) 787-2003



Handcrafted Solid Wood Doors
Any Door - Any Size - Any Wood
Crown Moulding - Sills - Stairs - Windows

CLASSIC GUTTER SYSTEMS, L.L.C.

- Heavy-duty copper, aluminum & stainless-steel round pipes
- Up to 26' sloped externally
- Easy Direct




26 styles of cast brass brackets

PO BOX 901270 • PO BOX 660-1234
PO Box 2238 • Kalamazoo MI 49001

The complete line visit www.classicgutters.com


Spiral Stair Kits

Add affordable beauty and space saving functionality to any room...



Metal Spirals from \$495

From simple elegance to ornate Victorians...



Over 20 styles to suit your home

you'll find the spiral stair kit that's right for your budget.

Victorian
Oak
Staircase
from \$495

Call for the FREE color Catalog
1-800-523-7427 Ask for Eric TGH
or visit our Web Site at
www.TheIronShop.com/TGH

THE IRON SHOP
The Leading Manufacturer of Iron Staircases

Proudly made in the U.S.A. since 1921

Custom. Period.
Designed. Delivered. Direct



Furniture that fits
True custom cabinetry
The perfect fit for
your period home

Available direct, nationwide

CROWDPOINT CABINETS

Real Quality Custom Cabinetry
Manufactured In Your Backyard

800-992-4364 • www.crowdpnt.com

Carlisle
Big Red Tools
Just For You!
 800-595-4063
 WWW.CARLISLE-TOOLS.COM



DAMAGED SCREW OR BOLT? GET IT OUT!

Get the easiest and most effective DAMAGED SCREW AND BOLT REMOVAL tool on earth...



Save time, effort and aggravation! The GrabitPro tool lets you remove damaged screws and bolts easier and faster than any other tool available. It's essential for every toolbox from hardware stores to experienced contractors.

FOR INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ALDEN.COM

GrabitPro
 PRO GRADE DAMAGED SCREW & BOLT REMOVAL

Alden

Superior Reinforced by Design™

Available at the following retailers:



The Perfect Storm!
Innerglass™ Interior Storm Windows
 • Maximize the value and beauty of your existing windows
 • Significant energy savings and energy jobs
 • Complete 2-in-1 solution (storm window + glass)
 • Complete 2-in-1 solution (storm window + glass)
 • See perfect storm window products!
 • See energy saving and energy jobs!

Innerglass
 Windows by Innerglass
 The Complete Storm Window
 1-800-743-4287 • www.innerglass.com

10% OFF
 when you buy 10 or more
 Grabit Pro tools

Make It Last a Lifetime
 Our grabit pro tools are built to last.

800-595-4063 • www.grabitpro.com

Easy to Install Weatherstripping Kits

WWW.EJITETRYNWORKS.COM
 800-760-7665

AMERICAN
 PLASTIC WINDOW FILLS
www.americanplastic.com
 1-800-269-5697
 Since 1988, 21/24

SKULLFEE
 MANUFACTURERS OF POWER
 WORKING HANDS & GLASS HANDS

Available at
 1-800-437-3333 or www.skullfee.com

RELIEF FOR DRY HANDS THAT CRACK & SPLIT

Absolutely Odorless • Non-Greasy

Working Hands
 THE SKULLFEE COMPANY

Buy today or find a store near you
www.0SkullfeeCompany.com

1-800-437-3333

SpeedPak

Quick, Easy And Powerful

The most versatile knife on the market is also the easiest to use. The Classic SpeedPak's 15-blade cartridge system is a piece of cake. No digging for spare blades or a screwdriver. Just snap the cartridge into the knife and get a new blade in seconds. Allowing you to stay sharp. Utility, Rock, Glider and Serrated—4 blade cartridges, one solution—SpeedPak.

ClassicCo.com/toh
 (800) 835-3333 #100

Available at **THE HOME DEPOT**

PERIOD HOME COLLECTIONS
Redefine Your Home

THE ANTIQUE COLLECTION 1999-2004

REDEFINE YOUR HOME

Free Shipping on orders over \$100 www.HOAH.biz

TURN YOUR VAC INTO A HOT ROD

The Dust Deputy's cyclonic action eliminates clogged filters for maximum vacuum performance.

Don't get old like your vacuum. Upgrade your present old vacuum with a new Dust Deputy. It's the only way to keep your vacuum running like new for 20% of the cost.

Order Online at www.dustdeputy.com 800.732.4065

MILL DIRECT WIDE PINE

1" x 12" Superior Quality Lower Prices Solid Dried 6-8" S4S

WOOD IDEA
34 Drew Road Lane
Murray, NC 24857
202-587-4812

10 YEAR PIN NAIL you paying or checking? Machine pulled, Perfect Pallet and Low Unload OR Unload OR Unload: Sixty Six and Sixty Six. www.milldirect.com

10 YEAR PIN NAIL you paying or checking? Machine pulled, Perfect Pallet and Low Unload OR Unload: Sixty Six and Sixty Six. www.milldirect.com

SAVE UP TO 50% ON HOME HEATING COSTS!
HYDRO-IL REDUCES 50% ON HOME HEATING COSTS!

Never have to buy fuel-oil, gas, propane, wood—ever again!

- Natural fire startles
- Lifetime warranty on hydro-rod
- Safe, no flames, no smoke
- No oil, no gas, no propane, no wood
- No oil, no gas, no propane, no wood
- No oil, no gas, no propane, no wood
- No oil, no gas, no propane, no wood

10 Year 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

HEATING SYSTEM	HYDRO-IL	HYDRO-IL	HYDRO-IL
100,000 BTU	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
200,000 BTU	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
300,000 BTU	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
400,000 BTU	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
500,000 BTU	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
600,000 BTU	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
700,000 BTU	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
800,000 BTU	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
900,000 BTU	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
1,000,000 BTU	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

1-800-827-9276 www.hydroil.com

SAVE THOUSANDS ON RECYCLED LUXURY KITCHENS

KITCHENS RECYCLED FROM MANHATTAN, ESTATE HOMES, LUXURY APARTMENTS AND SUBURBANS

Recycled kitchens starting at \$3,000

Stores in: Norwalk, CT; Haverdale, NJ; Haverdale, PA

888-887-5211

GREEN DEMOLITIONS

INCINOLET
ELECTRIC INCINERATING TOILETS

Enjoy the convenience, cleanliness of INCINOLET in your cabin, home, dock, or boat.

INCINOLET incinerates waste to clean ash, only electricity needed 120 or 240 volts.

INCINOLET - stainless steel, American made for years of satisfaction.

Used in all climates around the world. Tested, tested by US NSF 12303.

Call 1-800-527-5551 www.incinolet.com

ALL STEEL RADIATOR ENCLOSURES

POURINGS, DRIPPS, SPRINKLES, WASHERS

FROM \$45.00

BUY FACTORY DIRECT FROM A LUMBER & HARDWARE SUPPLY STORE. MONARCH is a leading manufacturer of all-steel radiator enclosures. Monarch's all-steel radiator enclosures are made in the USA.

MONARCH Dept.
PO BOX 28171 800-441-4411, 800-441-4411
(201) 607-5551 www.monarchhardware.com

You need Resources for your business to grow.

For advertising opportunities, contact Jennifer (212) 212-779-7172 at Media People Inc. today!

212-779-7172
www.mediapeopleinc.com

Cinder Whit & Company
Wood Turnings for Porches & Stairways

• Hand or Custom Design • Authentic Replication • Prompt Quality Service •

• Wood • Staircases • Porches • Stairways • Porches • Stairways •

• Wood • Staircases • Porches • Stairways • Porches • Stairways •

• Wood • Staircases • Porches • Stairways • Porches • Stairways •

• Wood • Staircases • Porches • Stairways • Porches • Stairways •

Salter Spiral Stair.com

Buy Factory Direct with Coast-to-Coast Delivery

- Classic Steel Stairs
- Aluminum Deck Stairs
- Forged Iron Stairs
- Exterior Galvanized Stairs
- Solid Wood Stairs

1-800-368-8280
Design and Sales Assistance

UN-COMPROMISED
Design Strength

What's under your tree?

THE Christmas Tree STAND MAT™

Protect your floors from scratches and water damage

The Christmas Tree Stand MAT™ protects beautiful hardwood floors and carpets from the scratches, spills and water stains associated with holiday decorating. Used with a live or artificial tree, The Christmas Tree Stand MAT™ is sure to keep your holiday festive for years to come.

30 inches round | Kevlar-like
Prevents scuff-through and scratches
Durable and Easy to clean

Available at participating ACE, True Value, Do it Best Hardware Stores, Christmas Stores.

www.uptonmat.com | 866.474.5572

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Slash Heating Bills up to 50%

Heat up to 1000 sq. ft. for about \$1 per day

Saves Money *plus...*

Saves Money *later!*

Safe around kids & pets
Control heat in time
Compatible heaters sell for \$299 to \$499
Limited lifetime warranty
Heats evenly floor to ceiling
NEW low price

Heater
Universal 1000 sq. ft. - 1200 sq. ft.

AS SEEN ON TV

\$279

YOU CAN PAY MORE, BUT YOU WON'T GET MORE!

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

Now direct Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such unbelievably low prices! We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! Come see for yourself at one of our 330 STORES NATIONWIDE and see this 20% OFF Coupon on any of our 7,300 products. We stock Automotive products, Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Taps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Material Handling, Welding Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Outdoor Equipment, Generators, and much more.

NOBODY BEATS OUR QUALITY, SERVICE AND PRICE!

UPSIDE WARRANTY

- ✓ We Have 13 Million Satisfied Customers
- ✓ We Buy Factory Direct and Pass the Savings on to YOU!
- ✓ Shop & Compare Our Quality Brands Against Other National Brands
- ✓ Thousands of People Switch to Harbor Freight Tools Every Day!
- ✓ NO HASSLE RETURN POLICY ✓ Family Owned & Operated

We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price Within 1 Year Of Purchase!

330 STORES NATIONWIDE
Store Locator: 1-800-657-8001

Shop Online at **HarborFreight.com**

20% OFF

Get More Coupons at HarborFreight.com/sidesea

105 PIECE TOOL KIT LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$99.95 \$34.99 SAVE 65%	3 GALLON 100 PSI GILLES PNEUMATIC AIR COMPRESSOR LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$149.95 \$39.99 SAVE 73%	60" HARDWOOD WORKBENCH LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$149.95 \$129.99 SAVE 13%
OSCILLATING MULTIFUNCTION POWER TOOL LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$39.95 \$29.99 SAVE 25%	12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP SPREADER LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$19.95 \$1.99 SAVE 90%	RECIPROCATING SAW WITH ROTATING HANDLE LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$19.95 \$1.99 SAVE 90%
11 BATTERY ATTACHMENTS LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$19.95 \$7.99 SAVE 60%	MOVER'S GOLLY LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$19.95 \$7.99 SAVE 60%	93 PIECE ROTARY TOOL SET LOT NO. 60217 REG. PRICE \$19.95 \$6.99 SAVE 65%

SAVE 60% TODAY - SHOP ONLINE at HarborFreight.com

Capture
this cast
for less
than
\$80,000

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0142804.g004



Find more money in your appliances
than you ever thought possible.



This year, Lowe's became the first product retailer to win ENERGY STAR's highest honor for helping you save money and energy. By using ENERGY STAR®-qualified products, the typical household can save up to 30 percent on energy bills, or about \$700 a year.* To start saving today, see an associate or visit Lowe's.com/RebateFinder.



*Source: US EPA. Appliances shown: Washer #315690 Dryer #16296 ©2010 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC.